

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On the 29th July, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, the wife of J. HUNT, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 20th July, at Kobe, at the Roman Catholic Church, by the Rev. Father Fage, ELLEN VINCENT, to V. DI LORENZO.

On the 24th July, at All Saints' Church, Kobe, by the Right Rev. Bishop Awdry, D.D., of South Tokyo, assisted by the Right Rev. Bishop Partridge, D.D., of Kyoto, and Rev. G. H. Davies, Chaplain, HUGH JAMES FOSS, Bishop of Osaka, son of the late Edward Foss, of Lower Hardres, Canterbury, to LINA JANET OVANS, eldest daughter of the late John Lambert OVANS, of East Sheen, Surrey.

DEATHS.

On the 25th July, at Wuchang, WINIFRED (BATEMAN), wife of Dr. P. L. McALL, London Mission, Hankow.

On the 28th July, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, THOMAS R. GOLDING, aged 65 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VOUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 26th June arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinzess Irene*, on the 5th August (40 days); and the American mail of the 9th July arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 9th August (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

An official return of the Russian losses in China up to April, states that 20 officers and 400 men were killed, 77 officers and 1,449 men wounded, 9 officers and 80 men having since died; and 56 missing.

A St. Petersburg despatch (according to a Havas telegram of the 1st inst.) reports that the Russian expedition to Tibet, under the command of Lieut. Kozlov was attacked by 2,000 'languts' and cut to pieces, in spite of a most determined resistance.

Typhoon weather prevailed at Shanghai last week from Friday onwards. The *Doric*, with the American mail, though she arrived at Wusung on Saturday, was unable to land passengers or mails, and could not leave again until Tuesday. There was but little general damage done by the typhoon.

On the 2nd inst., the Russian steamer which was carrying M. de Witte, Russian Minister of Finance, who is on a tour to the Far East, foundered in a typhoon off some islands which are cabled in our telegram from Shanghai as the Tse Islands. The passengers and crew were saved in the boats.

There is said to be no intention of increasing the French Far Eastern squadron, but arrangements are being made to keep it under the command of a Vice-Admiral, with the *Redoutable* as his flagship. The Cochinchina naval division is to be strengthened in 1902 by the addition of the gunboat *Acheron*, but no other alteration seems to be contemplated on that part of the station.

According to the *Times*, the new Chinese tariff will come into force on the 1st October next. A Reuter's telegram says that the British Government has approved of the proposals to include in the Chinese 5 per cent. *ad valorem* tariff articles now free from duty, except rice and cereals. A later Reuter, dated the 6th inst., says: Sir Ernest Satow, British Minister at Peking, has notified his colleagues that England is unable to sign the Protocol. The reasons are not stated.

Our Amoy correspondent writes under date 3rd August:—"We cannot understand why the British warships were ordered here, as everything is quiet in the port. There is a rumour that some Japanese, supposed to be spies, have been interfered with by natives at Chinchew, about two days' journey inland, but no details are to hand. The *Eclipse* and *Daphne* are still here, and also one Japanese cruiser, the *Suma*." A later advice shows that the same three ships were at Amoy on the 6th inst.

Lord Salisbury replied to Lord Spencer in the House of Lords on the 6th inst., that he was unaware that Germany had declared Manchuria to be outside the provisions of the Anglo-German agreement concerning China. On the same day Lord Lansdowne stated that the total number of troops in China was being reduced to 13,000, the British numbering 4,100. Lord Lansdowne entirely concurred with Lord Spencer as to the importance of Japan in the Far East and the necessity of maintaining most cordial relations with her. That, he said, was all the more easy inasmuch as the Japanese policy was similar to the British.

The 7th Rajputs, now stationed at Peking, will leave there to embark at Taku on the 21st instant for Calcutta.

It is generally understood, says the *Waihaiwei* correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, that a Japanese firm has undertaken to run a small steamer—about 200 tons—between this colony and Chefoo for a subsidy of 8800 per mensem. The contract, it is said, stipulates for two trips a week. We should have preferred that a British steamship company had undertaken to maintain regular communication with the outer world. Failing this, we are very grateful to our friends the Japanese. It may reasonably be expected that the regular trips of this vessel will lower the cost of certain provisions, and provide the foreign community here with a better supply of fruit—not to mention other more obvious benefits.

News received from Chining, Shantung, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, reports that there has been considerable recurrence of Boxerism since the past two months in Shantung province, brought about by the successes of the *Lienchuang Hui* or "Allied Villagers" in Chihli against the Government forces of Li Hung-chang. This is the true reason of the increase of Boxerism in Shantung, whilst another cause is said to be the news of the temporary retirement of Governor Yuan Shih-kai due to the death of H.E.'s stepmother the other day. Hu Ting-kan, who is acting Governor and Treasurer, is said to be a weak man and not generally feared by the people of the province, although he has sent troops to disband the embryo Boxer Association wherever found in Shantung.

A Tokyo despatch to the *Osaka Asahi*, in reference to the circumstances which have led to expediting the negotiations between the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the German-Asiatic Bank with regard to the work of construction of the Tientsin-Chinkiang Railway, states that it is the satisfactory result of the working of the railways constructed by Germany in the neighbourhood of Kiaochau Bay, and recently opened for traffic, which led the British and German authorities to bring the matter of the construction of the Tientsin-Chinkiang line to a head. Germany obtains the concession to construct two lines in Shantung, one running south-west from Tsingtao, Kiaochau Bay, by way of Weicheng and Changshau, and the other from Kiaochau to Ching-cheng, both connecting with the Chinkiang line.

A telegram to the *Osaka Asahi*, dated Tokyo, July 25, says:—"The works for the defence of the Legations of the Powers at Peking, which were decided upon at a conference of the Commanders of the Allied Forces, it was intended should be completed before the return of the Chinese Court to Peking, and the works are being pushed forward. At first it was proposed to erect forts, but the proposal was dropped on the ground that the presence of such works in the Chinese capital would impair the prestige of China as an independent State. It was subsequently arranged that strong walls should be erected round the Legations, which can be turned into forts in time of emergency. A space of about 230 metres is to be left in front of the walls for outlook and the barracks of the Legation Guards. It is expected that the works will be completed early in September."

THE ANXIOUS SIDE OF THE SITUATION.

(Daily Press, 3rd August.)

There still seems to be a vast amount of uncertainty with regard to the movements of the Chinese Imperial Court. On the one hand we hear of preparations going on for the return of the Imperial family from Hsianfu to Peking, and on the other hand emphatic contradictions are given to these preparations, which, it is said, are only being made in order to throw dust into the eyes of the Foreign Ministers. The route to be taken by the refugee Court on its return journey to the capital has been discussed, and is given as follows by one of the Chinese papers:—To proceed by land from Hsianfu to Linyuankou, a district under the jurisdiction of Kaifeng, in Honan; thence by boat across the Yellow River to its left bank, and from that point by land again to Taokou, in the district of Tsinhsien; from thence by boat to Techou, on the Wei river, Shantung, at its junction with the Grand Canal; from Techou by the Grand Canal to Tientsin, and from thence by railway to Peking. It is also stated that five steam-launches are to be purchased to tow the barges of the Imperial party, both up the Wei river and on the Grand Canal, and orders have been given to prepare the large *yamen* of the Tribute Grain Transport Tao'ai in Techou as a temporary palace for their Majesties the Emperor KWANG HSU and the Empress Dowager, in case they should, by reason of unpropitious weather, or other causes, be compelled to call a halt there. This sounds all very plain and straightforward, but it does not follow that the Court will proceed to commence this journey. To any person it would mean a somewhat wearisome piece of travel, and to the luxury-loving inmates of the Imperial Court it no doubt seems a really painful and even perilous adventure, however modified by the resources of the Government. If it be true, as reported, that much sickness now prevails at Hsianfu owing to the intense heat and that the Emperor and the Empress Dowager are among the sufferers, it is possible that Her Majesty may become impressed with the desirability of making a move; but it is most probable that, if any move is intended, it will not be in the direction of Peking.

According to several native authorities, the Imperial Government have no intention whatever of returning to Peking, and the Foreign Ministers are simply repeating the folly of last year, in shutting their eyes to the signs of the times. Our Shanghai morning contemporary, who is usually well posted, quotes a communication received from a correspondent who signs himself "An Anxious Student of the Situation," in which the most pessimistic tone is adopted, and apparently not without adequate reason. Briefly summarised, this writer's views are to the following effect. The organisation of the *Lienchung Hui* (the Allied Villagers) in Chihli is proceeding in such a manner as to cause considerable alarm. It seems that this conspiracy is wide-spread, and that it will therefore assume formidable proportions so soon as the conspirators are ready. They are keeping quiet for moment, but great preparations are going on, and when the time is ripe there will be a descent upon the walls of the capital, and a simultaneous rising within. This writer points out that the three notorious "Tigers," who were then, and still are, the obedient tools of the Empress Dowager, viz., Prince TUAN, Fung Lu, and Tung Fungsiang, are still safe from the consequences of their misdeeds, and none dares attempt to make them

afraid. He says, and says truly, that they should not have been denounced unless it was intended to follow up such denunciation and make the punishment fit the crime, for they are now the irreconcilable enemies of the foreigner and are resolved, if possible, to procure his expulsion from the soil of the Central Kingdom. If we may credit this authority, the outrages of last year are nothing compared to what is now impending, and that unless the Empress Dowager and her creatures are precluded from taking part in the Government of China, and unless the Emperor KWANG HSU is invested with real power, enabling him to rule as well as reign, then a repetition of the horrors of last year, but on a larger scale, may be looked for. Our contemporary is not given to cry "Wolf!" out of pure mischief, for it is conducted with a due sense of responsibility and a well-known dislike of sensationalism. It is in earnest in asking that these warnings, well intended in any case, should not be curtly dismissed without examination being made into their *bona fides*. We trust that this warning, more than once repeated, will be carefully heeded, and that the Ministers will not again be trapped inside the walls of the capital, where they would stand less chance probably of a rescue than on the last occasion.

THE IMPERIAL SUCCESSION.

(Daily Press, 5th August.)

Recent advices from the North are not satisfactory; and it may well be that the work of reconstruction may yet have to be taken in hand by the Powers. Indeed, as affairs have turned out, it would almost seem that the complacency of the foreign nations has been carried too far, and we shall have at this eleventh hour to undertake the work which might have been better accomplished at the beginning. Most people are of the opinion that the only hope for China consists in restoring to his rightful position the dispossessed Emperor, KWANG HSU, and once for all doing away with the regency of the Empress Dowager, to whose initiative the present *impasse* is mainly due; but here the unfortunate fact that the Emperor is without an heir doubtless interferes, while every day shows the inadvisability of recognising the youth PU CHUN, who has been named by the Dowager as his successor. If, as has been stated, PU CHUN has been spirited away by his ruffianly father, Prince TUAN, this inadvisability is still further accentuated. The youth, who was born in the year 1886, and is therefore fifteen years of age, has already developed traits of character which prove him to be unfitted in every way for the post. He is undoubtedly a bad boy, and to this natural unfittedness for the high post he has been under the thumb of his father, whose evil deeds are the common talk of Peking. The situation is, however, one of unusual difficulty, and the more so that in a matter affecting so closely the affairs of the Empire we have to take account of Chinese methods of thought, and respect what indeed to us may seem mere prejudices, but which to the Chinese mind have a deeper import. Lately we have spoken of the causes which have saved the Chinese as a nation from those evils of contested succession which at all ages in Asia have been at the root of unnumbered troubles. According to the rules which prevail from Constantinople to the borders of China, the theory is that the crown should go to the fittest; and in all ages the brother has been preferred to the son, especially when it has happened that the latter is of tender years. To the Chinese,

whose ancestral worship forms the groundwork of family existence, the succession of a brother, or even of a member of the same generation, seems little short of sacrilege; as manifestly the offerings to the *manes* must partake of the nature of succession, and from the very nature of the case, the brother or the full cousin of any degree is excluded. In the family cult of the Imperial clan, this fact is emphasised so as to be apparent on the surface, by giving each horizontal line a special title. In the ordinary Chinese family this is to a considerable extent concealed by the priority given to the surname; amongst the Manchus, where the family or clan name does not appear in the ordinary appellation of the individual, the first character of the individual name at once proclaims his position in the genealogical chart.

Thus the Emperor TAO KWANG's name was MIN NING, and his sons, as well as all others of the same generation, counting from the founder of the family, bore as their prenomen the character 奕 I. He was succeeded by his fourth son, I CHEO 奕訢. He had besides eight other sons, all of whom bore the prenomen I, and any of whom was equally eligible. But besides his sons, any grandson of the preceeding Emperor KIA K'ING also bore the prenomen I, and in default of an unobjectionable son, the others with the like prenomen I would be perfectly eligible.

But I CHEO in his turn had but one son, who took the prenomen of the generation, and was called TSAI SHUN, and in due course, while yet of tender years, succeeded as the Emperor TUNG CHI. It became necessary then to establish a regency, and of the regency, the most energetic, the Emperor's own mother, the concubine Tzu HI, from the first became the impelling force. When the Emperor came to man's estate, and showed some symptoms of the independence of spirit that had actuated his ancestors, he was suddenly taken ill, and died; but the announcement of his death was delayed till someone convenient was found to put in his place. For personal reasons, only known to the Dowager, the infant son of I HWAN 奕詝 seventh son of TAO KWANG, but who was also a TSAI, TSAI TIEN, was selected, and placed on the throne with the Nienhao of KWANG HSU.

How the intrusion of a TSAI, who was unable *de facto* to perform the necessary sacrificial rites to the shade of the unhappy boy Emperor, was received by the official classes in China we learn from the touching story of the death of the Censor Wu K'ORU, whose last memorial, sealed by his voluntary death, appeared in the *Peking Gazette* of the time. Wu K'ORU had twice before in the pursuit of what appeared to him the path of duty jeopardised his life by too freely commenting on affairs of state. "The remaining years he had yet to run were wholly the gift of his Majesty [TUNG CHI] a few years since; in that he did not die after committing three deadly sins, and had a life restored to him for which he did not sue." The life so restored to him he determined to devote to the Emperor who had pardoned him, but his Majesty, while still young and without a son, was taken away, and a son of Prince I HWAN [Prince CH'UN] was chosen Emperor in his stead, but adopted as son to Hsien Fung, so leaving TUNG CHI without an heir to continue the sacrifices to his *manes*. The story is beautiful in its simplicity and devotion. Wu asked for and obtained permission to attend at his dishonoured master's funeral, and determined that on its completion he

would offer his life in sacrifice, but before so doing he presented his dying address. "The birds sing mournfully before they die, and the words of a dying man should be words of wisdom." He told of the misfortunes of his master, of which this last was the crown, and begged the Regents to take into consideration his piteous accents; after which he sealed the petition with his life. Though no immediate result has ever come about from Wu's devotion, the incident ever afterwards cast a gloom over the life of the boy KWANG HSU, and has been doubtless one of the things which have tended to make his life sorrowful. It has by the Confucian faction been cited as a judgment that his childlessness has left him no immediate issue to offer the sacrifices to his *manes*; and that as an intruder he will have for the ages to wander—a restless forgotten spirit—through the realms of Hades—a fact that has doubtless tended to sour his mind.

That from an European standpoint the best and ablest successor to the Throne, in the event of the death without issue of KWANG HSU, would be our recent visitor, the Emperor's brother TSAI LI, by succession Prince CHUN, there is no doubt; but from a Chinese point of view the succession of brother would be an actual impiety, in this case aggravated by the fact that his brother's accession as a TSAI, where a PU should have been chosen, had been against the conscience of the more rigid Confucianists. There are, however, numerous descendants in the direct line of the Emperor TAO KWANG, any of whom might have a title, in the proper generation to the Throne, but so serious has been the degeneration of the stock during the present century that it is understood that there was little room for choice in the case of Prince PU CHUN selected by the Empress. TAO KWANG's eldest son, Prince I WEI, is represented only by adoption; his fifth is represented in the person of the present rebel, the infamous Prince TUAN; his sixth is represented by the present Prince KUNG, but neither he nor his brother is spoken of in favourable terms. Going back to an earlier generation, there is of course Prince KING, but as he belongs to the I generation, neither he nor his son could legally succeed. Altogether the succession to the disgraced throne of K'ANGHI is a subject beset with difficulties; and while we must acknowledge that its present occupant, though not so strong-minded as is advisable to restore the former prestige of the House, and unfortunately of rather fragile constitution, is yet a clever and well meaning young man, it is the best interests of China that the title of Crown Prince should be bestowed on some prince with a cleaner record than the bad-dispositioned son of the infamous TSAI I, the present TUAN SIN WANG.

The Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.'s party to establish a station on Direction Island, one of the Cocos Group, left Singapore on the 1st inst. by the s.s. *Giang Ann*. The number comprised Mr. A. Cameron (Superintendent) Messrs. A. E. Spriggs, J. Ingram, A. Macartney, and J. Wishart, and about thirty Asiatics. There are at present no buildings on Direction Island and the *Giang Ann* is conveying thither materials for erecting temporary quarters, etc., also stores and provisions for the party during the remainder of the present year. The station will be a connecting link in the cable between West Australia and the Cape, and the ships engaged in the work of laying that cable, the *Scotia* and the *Anglia*, are expected at Direction Island some time during September. These vessels will also bring out supplies and building materials from home for the station, which, it is expected, will be augmented later on, as regards staff, etc.

RUSSIA AND TIBET.

(Daily Press, 8th August.)

In spite of what we have heard of the entirely non-political character of the recent Tibetan mission to St. Petersburg, we are now told in REUTER'S telegram, published to-day, that the effect of the mission is already noticeable in the eagerness of the Chinese to renew negotiations concerning Manchuria. We do not, however, learn from any other source that the Chinese are "eager" to renew negotiations about Manchuria, and it is difficult to see why they should be so. As a matter of fact, it cannot be said that the Chinese have at any stage shown any anxiety to negotiate about the northern province. A small clique of self-seeking politicians, almost entirely Manchu, have proved themselves willing to listen to Russian advances in the matter, and LI HUNG-CHANG has displayed his usual pro-Russian proclivities. The eagerness has been all on the side of the Russian diplomatists who have taken advantage of their sovereign's peaceful and non-aggressive declarations to make his promises worthless in the face of the world. Among the Russian public men whose words and actions are always worth studying, from the fact of the influence which he is known to possess, Prince UKHTOMSKY occupies a prominent place, and certain remarks which occurred in a recent article in the *Viedomosti* of St. Petersburg, the Prince's organ, have not unnaturally attracted considerable attention. The publication of the article was directly due to statements widely published in the Russian Press to the effect that the Tibetan Embassy had come on a high political mission, and in particular for the purpose of bringing about the establishment of a permanent Tibetan diplomatic representative in St. Petersburg. The article commences by remarking upon the extravagant and absurd statements of the newspapers with regard to the Embassy, and remarks that the stories told as to the prospect of close relations between the Dalai Lama and Russia are simply impositions on the public, and have the further disadvantage of furnishing England with a pretext for intervention in Tibet which Russia would find it very difficult to prevent. The idle talk of a Russian protectorate over Tibet, continues the writer, can only be productive of harm to Russian travellers going to the country, besides irritating the Chinese, and inciting the Anglo-Indian Government to a more active policy. The only desire of the Tibetans is to preserve themselves from foreign invasion, even the invasion of scientific expeditions, one of which recently went so far as to shoot twenty-one persons in the territory of the Dalai Lama. Before the appearance of this article in the *Viedomosti* Prince UKHTOMSKY is said to have had a long interview with the Tibetan envoys. But whether this gives any special significance to the concluding remark in the article to which we have been alluding it is difficult to say; it is not safe to deduce too much from either official or semi-official, much less from individual expressions of policy from Russian politicians. We quote, however, the final words, if merely as a matter of interest: "Knowing, then, the truth regarding the pretended 'gravitation' of the Lhasa hierarchy towards Russia, one asks oneself whether indeed the Ambassadors have not been sent to request us to interest ourselves rather less or in a less aggressive form in the destiny of a country which, through its geographical position, is certain to remain *res nullius*."

ANGLO-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

(Daily Press, 9th August.)

LORD LANSDOWNE'S statement in the House of Lords on Tuesday as to the necessity of Great Britain maintaining most cordial relations with Japan is interesting as being the most authoritative declaration on this point made in either House of Parliament for a long time. Whatever may have been the feeling of the majority of Englishmen toward Japan before the China-Japan War—most writers agree that the expectation, though possibly not the hope, in Britain was that China would be victorious—it is certain that the result of the war was to induce an entirely different attitude of mind toward Japanese progress. It was no longer open to say that Japan's remodelling of her army and construction of her navy on European lines was merely superficial. The rapidity of the Island Empire's success was so marked that it was clear that the Oriental method of warfare has given place to the new style without impairing the martial energy of the people. The eyes of the whole world were then turned to Japan, and the presence of a new factor in Far Eastern politics had to be recognised. The way in which the European Powers turned the changed state of affairs to their own advantage is too well known to require comment. Russia with her usual diplomatic ability made a substantial gain at no cost to herself. France and Germany supported her, and Great Britain looked on, while her statesmen made amiable remarks about Russia's claims to an ice-free port. Japan, however, though robbed of a large part of the spoils of victory, was henceforward in a very different position from that which she had ever occupied before, and the possibility of her alliance with any of the Powers was no longer inconceivable. There was even at this period no want of advocates for a closer union between Great Britain and Japan, but unfortunately the grossly exaggerated stories, for the most part circulated by people who had not been on the spot, of Japanese barbarity after victory had considerable weight with the home public. The events of 1900-1901 have enlightened the world as to the boasted superior humanity of European warfare, and it is not likely that critics will again have the courage—to dignify the quality by such a name—to compare the behaviour of Japanese troops unfavourably with those of other civilised nations. The question of Occidental and Japanese relations has therefore, we may hope, been cleared for ever of cant. The handling and conduct of the Japanese army has been the admiration of those who fought with it as allies, and military critics have not been slow to express their opinions. It cannot therefore be wondered that the Powers have all been reconsidering the subject of their relations with Japan.

LORD LANSDOWNE, in his reply to Lord SPENCER, remarked that it was all the more easy for Great Britain to maintain cordial relations, inasmuch as Japanese policy was similar to British, referring of course to the constantly expressed desire of both nations for the maintenance of the "open door" in China and the freeing of Chinese trade generally from the numberless hindrances which at present act so prejudicially on it. It cannot be denied that the interests of Britain and Japan in China run very much in the same direction, and that there is more reason for intimate relations between the two nations than between Japan and any other Power. Nevertheless it must not be forgotten that there are various points on which there is a divergence of

aim. Japan is much in need of money at the present moment and by this fact may be inclined to sacrifice certain commercial advantages to hasten the payment of the indemnity, a matter in which the British Minister seems to have taken a firm stand on the other side. Then the proceedings of Japan with regard to Fukhien province can hardly be looked on as beneficial to British or other European interests. The Japanese acquisition of Formosa, followed by the protective policy adopted there, has struck a blow at British trade and shipping between Fukhien, Formosa, and beyond, from which it is highly improbable that they will recover. There are other points in Japan's commercial policy which similarly affect British trade. But on the whole the similarity of objects is greater than the divergences, and a closer commercial alliance between the two nations must undoubtedly tend to the advantages of both. The likelihood of any closer union depends on the turn which events take after the conclusion of negotiations with China. It is apt to be assumed that a Japanese alliance is to be had for the asking, an assumption which it is hardly wise to make. The Japanese are a practical people and will want something more than an illusory friendship. The possibility of the extension of shipping service between England and Japan, if it succeeds in bringing into Japan some of the much needed foreign capital, may do much to strengthen the relations between the two peoples.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

(Daily Press, 6th August.)

The brief announcement made by REUTER on the last day of July, to the effect that the House of Commons had authorised a loan of two millions sterling as Great Britain's share of the cost of the Pacific cable, marks the commencement of a fresh era in the history of telegraphic communication. This cable, which must not be confused with the projected cable across the Pacific from San Francisco *via* Honolulu, to Japan and thence to Manila, is the line proposed by Sir SANDFORD FLEMING in October, 1898, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It will commence at Vancouver, and cross the Pacific to Australia. The first station will be at Fanning Island, the second at Fiji, and the third at Norfolk Island; at the latter point it is intended to bifurcate, one branch extending to New Zealand, the other to the eastern coast of Australia. This line is one of supreme importance both to the British Empire and to trade. It is intended as the first link in a vast scheme for inaugurating an Imperial system of telegraphy. Sir SANDFORD FLEMING urges very strongly that, like the post-offices, the telegraph lines should be state-owned, and he boldly advocates further cables to connect with the British lines existing, which would then not only girdle the globe but enable the Government to reduce the telegraphic rates to such a point as to bring its advantages within the means of all. This is a great project, and perhaps it is too much to hope that it will be carried through in its entirety for some years to come. Yet there is no reason why a great portion of the dream of telegraph reformers should not soon be realised. The principle of state-ownership and state-control of submarine cables was formally confirmed on the 31st December, 1900, when the contract for laying this Pacific cable was signed. From that to other steps will not be very difficult, in spite of the very powerful private interests that block the way. These difficulties will have to be overcome before the British telegraphic girdle can be made

complete. This Pacific cable will serve the purposes of trade between Australasia and Canada, but these countries are debarred from establishing independent telegraphic connection with Hongkong. Under an agreement, dated 28th October, 1893, the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company strengthened its monopoly by having Canada and the Australasian Colonies telegraphically excluded from this colony and forbidden to lay, or to assist in laying, any new cable to its shores for a period which does not expire until about seventeen years from the present date. But there is one means of breaking up this monopoly, and that is for the British Imperial Government to exercise its option to purchase the cable laid between Hongkong, Labuan, and Singapore on giving twelve months' notice to the Telegraph Company and paying the stipulated price of £300,000. Whether this will be done we are of course unable to say, but there are many powerful advocates not only in Great Britain, but in Canada and Australasia, for a national system of state-owned electric cables, both for the protection of imperial interests and for the promotion of Pan-Britannic trade and defence. Such a change would be hailed with the most profound satisfaction here by all interested in trade, as the cost of telegrams now presses very hardly on the commercial community, and while constituting a serious charge on business it restricts its growth and that of the colony generally. Canada has led the way in the reduction of postage to the popular rate of one penny for the half-ounce letter, and her statesmen are now strongly urging the adoption of a popular rate for telegrams within the limits of the British Empire. If this scheme be adopted, it will soon break down telegraph monopolies in all parts of the world, much to the benefit of trade generally. It is satisfactory to think that we are at last within sight of some amelioration of telegraph rates. The money for the Pacific cable has been agreed to, and the work has actually commenced. At least, so we gather from a speech made by Lord RANFURLY, Governor of New Zealand, on the 2nd ultimo, in opening the Parliament of that go-ahead colony. His Excellency said that the commencement of the construction of the Pacific cable was an accomplished fact, the contract had been signed, the Board of Advice had been formed, and the work of laying the cable was progressing. "This Imperial work," his lordship added, "would be advantageous alike to the colonies and to the mother country." This is good hearing, and the opinion expressed by Lord RANFURLY will, we doubt not, find endorsement in every part of the widely scattered British Empire.

In H.B.M.'s Civil Summary Court at Shanghai on the 30th ult. the case Hibberdine v. Cowen came before Mr. Justice Bourne. Mr. Hibberdine (who will be remembered as having been on the staff of the *Telegraph* here) claimed \$94.70 for photo-engravings supplied to Mr. Cowen, joint lessee with Mr. Cheaney Duncan of the *New Press*. This was in connection with a special edition of the *New Press* arranged by Mr. Grey, who got up a special edition of the *Telegraph*, it will also be remembered. Defendant said that he had never ordered the goods. When he found that the work was being done he gave notice to the plaintiff that he did not want it. He admitted, however, using the work in his paper. Finally Mr. Cowen was ordered to pay the money into court, the question of the quality of the work done by Mr. Hibberdine being left over until Mr. Grey's return from Japan, which had been delayed owing to his not having sufficient money to bring him back. His Honour said that the money would not be paid out before this return, when the matter of reducing the sum due to Mr. Hibberdine could be considered.

SWATOW'S TRADE IN 1900.

(Daily Press, 7th August.)

The trade of Swatow, even from the mere fact of its proximity, cannot fail to have an interest for residents in Hongkong. Moreover, as is the case with the other southern ports, the events of last year cause the figures to have a special significance as showing the amount of the effect produced by the northern troubles on southern commerce. Mr. Consul SCOTT, who is responsible for the Foreign Office report on the trade of Swatow in 1900, commences by deprecating the artificial reckoning of dues, duties, exports and imports, in Haikwan taels, the tael being no coin at all and its sterling exchange fluctuating and falling year by year. He therefore, in common with the compilers of most of the other consular reports this year, gives the values in both Haikwan taels and sterling. According to the first set of figures, the total net trade of Swatow in 1900 amounted to Hk. Tls. 44,030,704, as against the Hk. Tls. 24,935,095 of 1900, an increase of nearly 80 per cent. But expressed in sterling the 1899 total was some £6,300,000, while last year the figures were £8,800,000, the real increase therefore being some 8 per cent. only—a very large difference. The 1900 figures, however, were the second largest on record for Swatow, the only better year being 1899. "This result," says Mr. SCOTT, "is eminently satisfactory in view of the adverse circumstances and conditions under which trade generally has been conducted in the East during 1900. . . Merchants in Swatow, both native and foreign, unite in acknowledging that their operations in 1900 have proved fairly remunerative, and that the year closed with a ready settlement of accounts by Chinese dealers and shippers."

The total trade of 1900 was divided as follows:—Imports, £4,793,842; exports, £1,918,040; re-exports, £122,114, the latter being more than a 50 per cent. increase on the 1899 figures. By the customs return last year's imports included £1,073,883 worth of foreign goods and £2,820,459 worth of Chinese native produce, the latter drawn principally from the Yangtze and Northern provinces. Upwards of £100,000 worth of the foreign imports go to Swatow direct, principally from the Straits, Odessa, Japan, Formosa, Cochin-China, Siam and Java, the rest of foreign goods reaching Swatow after transshipment at Hongkong. The leading places among foreign imports during the past two years were easily held by cotton goods and opium, followed at a distance by kerosene, and then by tin slabs, flour, fish, and rice. Opium and kerosene both made considerable advances in 1900 from the previous year's figures, reaching £565,566 and £108,993 against £497,207 and £100,885 in 1899. Cotton goods fell from £2780,552 to £2631,648, a not unexpected decline in shirtings taking place. In yarn, the quantity imported declined considerably, but the Indian product continued to monopolise the market, while Japanese yarn has been reduced to insignificant proportions. Under the heading of kerosene we find that the Sumatra oil is gradually excluding both American and Russian oils, on account of its cheapness, for as an illuminant it is inferior to both the others. The match trade is entirely in the hands of Japan. The Swedish match, which drove out the English, once found all along the coast, has been supplanted in turn by the Japanese product. Mr. SCOTT observes:—"A native coolie, earning a wage of some 6d per day, cannot rise to a log of wood (comparatively speaking) like

"BRYANT and May's manufacture, which, 'in Japanese hands and manipulation, 'would be cut up into at least four good 'serviceable matches. At the same time 'the item of freight operates against the 'European-made article.' Opium, though the value of its import increased from 1899 to 1900, showed a falling off of some 850 chests, and taking the records of the past ten years we find that Chinese competition is telling heavily against the Indian trade. The drug placed on the market by the Yunnan and Szechuan growers bids fair to oust the foreign drug from the Chinese market.

The bulk of articles exported to foreign countries are shipped to meet the demand of Chinese emigrants to the Straits, America, and our own colony. Only feathers, hair, hemp, sugar, tea, tobacco, and sundries, amounting in all to some £300,000, are claimed as destined for European use; but there is also the amount shipped to Hongkong of goods eventually meant for foreign use and manufacture. The three largest exports to other Chinese ports are sugar, native cloth, and tobacco, and of these sugar, the chief staple, showed a large fall-off in 1900, owing to the closing of the northern ports.

The main feature of the year's shipping was the decrease in tonnage and numbers of visiting vessels of all nations except the Japanese, who showed a large increase. The gain of Japan was at the expense of Great Britain and amounted to some 132 steamers entered and cleared. The Japanese development of Formosa and the subsidised Osaka Steamship Co.'s line from that island to Hongkong, via Foochow, Swatow and Amoy, have produced this result. The only satisfactory point for British traders is that the bean-cake and bean carrying trade from Chefoo and Newchwang, formerly conducted by German and Norwegian sailing ships, is now done by the more capacious British steamers. On the other, the transfer of the Scottish Oriental line to German hands has made the coolie-carrying trade to Bangkok entirely German. The emigration trade in general works smoothly, and Mr. Scott attributes this to the care of the Singapore and Sumatra governments who supervise the trade.

The report concludes by calling attention to the continued development of inland steam navigation. Six British and six Chinese launches ran successfully between Swatow and surrounding centres of trade and population in 1900. A large and better class of launch than formerly is now employed, which accounts for the fact that fewer trips were made in 1900 than in 1899, though the tonnage is but little less. There was no obstruction from *lekin* or other native officials. The Chinese authorities, however, made no attempt to facilitate navigation by dredging or opening up waterways, which indeed is not to be expected under the existing régime in China. It is to be hoped that future reports will be able to chronicle an alteration in this attitude of the officials, which in the Swatow district, as elsewhere, does so much to check the advance of Chinese trade.

News has been received of the death of Inspector Thos. Moffat, at his home in Ireland. Deceased had nearly twelve years' service in the Hongkong Police Force, and went home about eighteen months ago on sick leave. He never recovered sufficiently to make his return to duty possible. Inspector Moffat while in Hongkong made hosts of friends by his unfailing urbanity, and was highly valued by his superiors for his conscientious attention to duty. Mr. Moffat was in receipt of a pension at the time of his death.

NEW HONOUR FOR MAJOR-GENERAL GASCOIGNE.

(Daily Press, 9th August.)

The bestowal by His Majesty the King of the rank of Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George upon H.E. Major-General W. J. GASCOIGNE, Commanding the Troops in Hongkong, will, we are sure, be welcomed by every resident in the Colony. Other honours, as will be seen from the telegram in another column, have been received by various officers well known in Hongkong, but none will cause more satisfaction than that which Major-General GASCOIGNE has received. During the whole of his stay in Hongkong Major-General GASCOIGNE has been most deservedly popular with every class in the community; in his brief Acting Governorship last year he still more endeared himself to us all. No distinction received by the Colony could well be the cause of more general pleasure, and we gladly take this opportunity of expressing to H.E. the congratulations of an united Colony on the honour which has been bestowed upon him.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

Amoy, 2nd August, 11.30 a.m.

His Majesty's ships *Glory*, *Eclipse* and *Daphne* have all arrived at Amoy, but there is no trouble here.

Amoy, 3rd August, 11 a.m.

H.M.S. *Glory*, with Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge on board, has left for Hongkong. All is quiet here.

Shanghai, 6th August, 6.17 p.m.

The Russian steamer which was carrying M. de Witte, the Russian Minister of Finance, foundered on Friday off the Tae [?] Islands in a typhoon. All the passengers and crew were saved in the boats.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 8th inst. at the Board room. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Mr. E. Osborne, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

HOUSING OF INSPECTORS.

A letter from Government was submitted relative to the submission of a scheme for the housing of the whole staff of inspectors. The letter, which was dated 1st August, was from the Colonial Secretary, and read:—"I am directed to inform you that at a meeting of the Public Works Committee on the 15th inst. the proposal to erect three houses on a site in the Taipingshan reserved area was considered, the estimated cost being \$18,000. The members expressed themselves as not in favour of this proposal, and requested that a complete scheme might be submitted by the Sanitary Board for the housing of the whole staff of inspectors. I am therefore to request the Sanitary Board to be good enough to submit such a scheme for the consideration of H.E. the Governor."

The Secretary attached the following minute: "With reference to the submission of a complete scheme, I beg to point out that the erection of the three houses on a site in the Taipingshan reserved area would appear to be the initial step of a scheme for providing quarters for the inspectors, which was recommended by the M.O.H. and strongly endorsed by the Board. Vide the last paragraph of the M.O.H.'s letter dated 25th November, 1899."

The following is a list of inspectors who are, or who will be in receipt of house allowance, and it will be necessary in order to complete the scheme to select sites for their quarters:—Five senior inspectors of nuisances, four inspectors of nuisances (first class), thirteen inspectors of nuisances (second and third class), one inspector of markets, one inspector of cattle-depots and animal slaughter-house. I may add that the inspectors are allowed \$30 a month for rent allowance, and the saving effected by the erection of the three houses would be \$1,080 yearly, which would give a return of six per cent. on the estimated cost of \$18,000, which, however, does not appear to include the cost of site. The scheme was not, however, recommended solely for its financial advantages, but also on the ground that the majority of the inspectors are wholly unable, for \$30 a month, to obtain suitable accommodation for themselves and their families. The Vice-President wrote on the circulating cover of the M.O.H.'s letter: "I strongly endorse the recommendation. All these men ought to be decently housed free of cost to them." As the office copy of the F.P. is bound up, I have obtained the original from the C.S.O. and attach it and a copy of the minutes of the members on the circulating cover of the M.O.H.'s letter."

The President minuted: "A complete scheme is required before any progress can be made with this matter. The M.O.H. should draw up a list showing the number of houses required and the number of rooms in each, with any other facts. Unless it is considered necessary, none of them should be quartered in the central portion of the city."

Dr. Clark minuted in reply. "In my opinion each house should have four rooms, and they should be built two stories high, thus making two rooms on the ground floor for living purposes and two rooms on the upper floor for sleeping purposes, with a balcony on the upper floor. Coolie-quarters should be separated from the house by a yard. It is essential that the inspectors should live in or near their districts, and therefore some of the houses must be in the central part of the city—Taipingshan for preference. The quarters most urgently required are—(1) A house for the new inspector at the Kennedytown slaughter-house, (2) a house close to the Hunghom slaughter-house (3) houses in Taipingshan. So far as East Point is concerned, it would probably pay the Government best to purchase one or two houses in that neighbourhood from private owners, unless they prefer to rent them on long leases. Nearly all the men are married, and therefore barracks are out of the question. As there are at present twenty-four inspectors, therefore twenty-four houses are at present required."

Dr. Atkinson minuted: "I concur with the M.O.H. It is absolutely necessary that some of the inspectors should live in the central part of the town, and I would suggest that these be erected first, and as soon as possible, seeing there is plenty of vacant space in the resumed area of Taipingshan."

The PRESIDENT said these papers had been circulated amongst the members of the Board, and, as would be seen, the Medical Officer of Health had submitted a list of inspectors and stated how many houses it was necessary to provide for them. The proposal was to provide a separate house for each inspector, but that, to the President's mind, involved a scheme which would be found to be very expensive.

Mr. MAY was afraid he could not agree with the scheme, which he understood recommended the Government to build a four-roomed house for each inspector. To begin with, it was not every inspector who was married, and again, there was a certain class of women recognised as ineligible to live in married quarters. Therefore the question certainly required reconsideration. To his mind there ought to be a certain percentage of married quarters given, and the rest of the men should live like the gaol officials or police officials—in barracks, or at least three or four in a house. He moved that the question be further considered at the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. BREWIN seconded. He did not see, however, why there should be a limitation of two stories to a house. Why not have three, and why separate the houses in the married quarters?

Mr. OSBORNE—I cannot support the Vice-President because I think this matter has already been discussed, and I believe the majority of the members generally were of opinion that it would be to the interest of the colony if these inspectors were properly housed. It would be to the interest of the colony if we could get a superior class of inspectors, and make it worth while for good men to come out from home. No man will come out from home on the present pay of inspectors, with a nominal allowance of \$30 a month for house rent. Therefore, if you want good men, you must either pay them more or provide them with decent, respectable quarters. These men in the past have been housed in ordinary Chinese houses situated in crowded, filthy Chinese slums. It is not conducive either to the health or welfare of the colony that they should be housed like Chinese. You cannot compare these men to the police servants. The police, the military, and the gaol servants are under a great deal more control than these men are.

Mr. BREWIN—Hear, hear.

Mr. OSBORNE—These men have to go out alone, they have great powers thrust upon them, and you want men of discretion who can best use these powers. In the gaol, and police, and military almost every unit has got a superior officer immediately over him; these men have not. Therefore I say you want a better class of men than you have for the gaol, police, or military.

After further remarks from **Mr. MAY** the motion was put to the meeting and carried. **Mr. Osborne** voted against it.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

A reply was submitted from Government relative to the Board's recommendations regarding the enforcement of the law bearing on the registration of births. The reply, which was dated 3rd August, was to the effect that "the Registrar-General will issue a notice calling attention to the law bearing on the registration of births, and will instruct the district watchmen to bring to notice cases of its infraction, while the Captain Superintendent of Police will instruct the police to endeavour to obtain evidence on which to prosecute cases of infraction."

The papers were laid on the table.

ADDITIONAL MARKETS, LATRINES, AND URINALS.

Mr. OSBORNE, pursuant to notice, asked for the production by the Medical Officer of Health, or by the Secretary, of a statement showing what recommendations the Board and its officers have made during the past two years in respect of the following matters, and how far such recommendations have been carried out:—

1. Additional markets.
2. Additional public latrines.
3. Additional public urinals.

A statement had been prepared by **Dr. Clark** and the Secretary dealing at length with the recommendations of the Board in the matters referred to by **Mr. Osborne**.

Markets.—Under this heading it was shown that:—Western market was extensively repaired in 1897. New Western market commenced in 1901. Plans of new Saiyingpoon Market approved by Board in October, 1895; not built. Plans for extension of Shaikiwan Market approved by Board in November, 1895; small matched extension erected in 1897. Plan of a new market at Taikoktsui approved by the Board 30th June, 1898; new market opened 1st January, 1899. Plans for extension of Wanchai Market approved by Board 11th July, 1901. Erection of new market at Kowloon Point estimated to cost \$81,000, and \$5,000 voted for preparation of site this year. Plans of additional temporary markets for city approved by Board 11th July, 1901. Expenditure approved in connection with additional stalls for Sakonpo market. Expenditure approved in connection with eight additional stalls to Yauwati Market 26th June, 1901.

Latrines and Urinals.—A glance at the details given under this head shows that the Board has not been remiss either in making recommendations or in carrying them out. Ten thousand dollars for additional urinals and \$12,000 for additional latrines is to be inserted in the estimates for 1902.

Mr. OSBORNE said—"This motion had its origin in consequence of certain statements

that are made in a memorandum on a petition dated 20th June, 1901, which was drawn up and sent to the Government, and has since been made public. I consider that there are statements in that memorandum which are not in accordance with facts, and other statements which are misleading, and it was my first intention to call for a complete list of the whole of the recommendations of the Sanitary Board for the past ten years, and, side by side in parallel columns, to give a list of those that have been given effect to. But that would have involved a vast amount of work, and I limited my motion to these three important items. This return I don't propose to speak upon at the present moment, as I shall have an opportunity later on of embodying it in a communication I intend to make to the Governor on the statements made in that memorandum—statements which reflect on the Sanitary Board and which impute negligence to the Board in the conduct of the sanitary affairs of this colony. I now move that this return be printed and circulated, and copies sent for the information of H.E. the Governor.

Dr. CLARK—I beg to second **Mr. OSBORNE's** motion. I am personally prepared to vouch for the inaccuracy of some of the statements made in the memorandum. In particular, a reference is made to myself in one of these statements which practically implies—

The **PRESIDENT**—Excuse me, you are getting away from the point.

Dr. CLARK—Well, I beg to second the resolution.

Mr. MAY—It is somewhat peculiar to hear **Mr. Osborne** objecting to the Sanitary Board being called inefficient and its working in general called into question, seeing he was one of the signatories to the petition to the Secretary of State—a petition which stated that nothing had been done in sanitary matters for twenty years, and which damns the Sanitary Board, damns the Government, and damns everyone who has anything to do with the Sanitary affairs of the colony.

Mr. OSBORNE, who had been looking over the statement drawn up in reply to his question, here rose and objected to the form it had taken. It would convey absolutely nothing to the public, he said, and he wanted as much publicity given to the statement as had been given to the memorandum. "The return I have asked for," **Mr. Osborne** concluded, "is a statement showing what recommendations the Board and its officers have made during the past ten years. This is a statement merely showing a summary of these recommendations."

The **PRESIDENT**—It is a statement of the matter in a condensed form. I am afraid you give to the public of Hongkong credit for a great deal more interest in sanitary matters than they really possess. If you imagine they are going to sit down and wade through pages of extracts of Sanitary Board minutes and recommendations, and so on, I am bound to say that I do not think your expectations will be realised.

Mr. OSBORNE's motion was then put to the meeting and carried.

PROPOSED NEW LATRINE.

Dr. CLARK, pursuant to notice, moved that the Board beg to recommend that a public latrine of forty seats be erected on that site of Crown land which is situated on the west side of Gillies Avenue, Hunghom, and to the south of Hunghom Inland Lot 233.

The **PRESIDENT** seconded, and the motion was carried.

CLEANSING OF CHINESE HOUSES.

Further correspondence was laid on the table dealing with the cleansing of Chinese houses. The file had been referred back to the Board by H.E. the Governor with reference to a minute by **Mr. A. W. Brewin**, Registrar-General. The minute, which was dated 16th July and was addressed to the Colonial Secretary, was as follows:—"The general cleansing you referred to in your minute of 3rd July, 1901, was carried out every six months at times selected by the Registrar-General in order to suit the Chinese. It was not compulsory, but was very effective. At last meeting I tried to persuade the Board to encourage these half-yearly cleansings, but was unsuccessful. The points about these general

cleansings were that (1) an effort was made at intervals to persuade the Chinese to go in for special cleansing (2), the times selected were suited to the idiosyncrasies of the Chinese (3), the cleansing throughout the City was simultaneous. In my opinion, the action which the Board invites me to take will have no useful result. The whitewashing in each district is spread over two months; there is therefore no simultaneous cleansing; and any notices issued by the Registrar-General will not fall part, as it were, but may refer to something which is to happen in a month or six weeks. Further, the times selected in each district are those which suit the Board and not the Chinese population. The Registrar-General's notices would be issued six times a year instead of twice, and would therefore lose much of their force."

MESSRS. BUTTERFIELD AND SWIRE'S PLAGUE HOSPITAL—INSPECTOR ROBERTSON'S REPORT.

Correspondence was submitted from Messrs. Butterfield and Swire relative to Inspector Robertson's report on their letter dated 10th June. That letter, it may be remembered, contained reference to a "distressing incident" connected with the death of a woman at Quarry Bay, whose body was removed to Kennedytown by the Sanitary Board officials during the absence of the husband, who had gone to procure a coffin and bearers.

Briefly, Inspector Robertson's report was to the following effect:—(1) The woman died in the hospital, and not at Quarry Bay. (2) The body was removed by the hospital officials.

In their reply to that report, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire forwarded to the Board copies of statements made by **Dr. Kwan**, who saw the body of the deceased woman, **Mr. Chan Fai Kwong**, a student at the Quarry Bay hospital, and **Mr. George Morphew**, also connected with the hospital, both of whom were aware of the circumstances connected with the removal of the body. **Mr. Chan Fai Kwong** stated that he told an Indian sergeant who wanted to remove the body that he could not do it unless he had the husband's permission. The sergeant answered—"Never mind the husband; if he comes tell him that I removed the body."

Mr. Morphew, in bearing out this statement, said that when he arrived at the hospital he was told that the sergeant insisted on taking the bodies away, and that the student in charge, seeing that further protests were useless, gave the coolies the two slips of paper that are usually attached to bodies taken away.

The Secretary minuted that he did not see that the correspondence submitted by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire proved that Inspector Robertson's report was not in accordance with facts.

Mr. May minuted: "It is perfectly clear that the bodies were not removed by the S.B. officials in the distressing manner described in Messrs. B. & S.'s hysterical letter to the Press (sic). But they haven't the courage to admit it."

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

It was intimated that H. E. the Governor had approved an application from **Mr. J. J. Bryan**, Sanitary Surveyor, for seven weeks' leave of absence.

Mr. Bryan stated in his letter to the Board that since his arrival in the Colony in August, 1897, he had only had five days' leave, that he usually had to work on Bank and Government holidays, and that for the last two months he had been under the treatment of **Dr. Lamort** for nervous debility.

Dr. Clark has agreed to assume **Mr. Bryan's** duties during the latter's absence from the colony.

Dr. Clark minuted: "It will be necessary for the Board to appoint me temporarily as the officer authorized to certify that new buildings are built in accordance with the provisions of the P.M.O."

On the motion of the **PRESIDENT**, **Dr. Clark** was appointed to fill temporarily **Mr. Bryan's** office.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. F. Browne, the Government Analyst's reports on the public water supplies for the month of July were laid on the table. Three samples were analysed—one from the Pokfulam service (pumping station, Bonham Road West), one from the Tytam service (Hollywood Road) and one from the Kowloon

service (Chater Road). The results show that the water in each case is of excellent quality.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 6th August was laid on the table. There were no remarks.

This was all the business.

THE INSANITARY CONDITION OF HONGKONG.

THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

The pleasure of reading the Official explanation concerning the (in)sanitary condition of this colony has unfortunately so far been limited to a few. The correspondence between the Chamber of Commerce and the Government, the Petition of the Residents to the Right Hon. the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the reply to that Petition prepared by local officials, dealing with the sanitation of the colony, have been collected and published in the form of a blue-book. This book is made up of sixty-four foolscap folio pages—mostly of small type—and is thus a formidable volume, considering the subject matter, for the average reader to tackle. Had the book been printed on octavo pages and in large and more convenient type, it would have been roughly equal in bulk to a colonial novel; in fact some of the Official statements are really entertaining fiction, but the subject would naturally pall after the few opening chapters. Published in such a form, with the insertion of a few vivid allegorical illustrations depicting the wicked Unofficials triumphant in the enormity of their wickedness, and half-tone photographs of unreasonable newspaper editors—the alleged real and sole opponents to and frustrators of the progress of Sanitation in Hongkong—the book would have been of intrinsic value and provided a permanent royalty for its authors. Its value would have been even further increased by the inclusion of *facsimile* autographs of those three worthy, though despondent, Officials, who in the face of continuous Unofficial opposition, and retarded by an apathetic community, have so nobly brought the Sanitary system of Hongkong to that sublime state of perfection they represent it to be in to-day. This would have completed a volume which would, like the speeches of one of them, have justified its claim to "go down to posterity." What an opportunity lost to an enterprising publisher!

It is consoling, however, to learn that the blue-book, which was apparently rushed through in order to be sent home with the Petition, will be printed in an improved form; and thus all will have an opportunity of reading it—that is, those who may possess enough public spirit to so desire. I recommend it for devout Sabbath perusal.

The book is an extremely able production, apart from technical defects, and the joint-authors are to be heartily congratulated on having produced a volume worthy of their united efforts and abilities. Few of its readers will be ungenerous enough to suppose that the authors individually and personally believed all the statements they have made themselves responsible for in their Official capacity, because many of these are audacious prevarications, and literary twistings, which may be considered pardonable only in the Official character. Likewise, in a private capacity, the fairness of the authors would at once be questioned; for the extent of their resources in explanation is only excelled by their great ingenuity in evasion. Their casuistry is charming, and the telescope and blind eye are very much in evidence. Many will rightly consider this blue-book to be one of the ablest productions the Hongkong Government has yet sponsored, for reading the Official Memoranda alone, without consulting the Petition, and without the misfortune of a personal experience of Hongkong, one could not fail to be convinced by it. Unfortunately, however, taking it as a purely literary effort, it has one cardinal weakness, namely, a want of sequence.

In the first part of the book, H.E. the Governor admits the necessity of sanitary reform: he wires and or writes for an expert to come from home. He mentions the "causes of insanitary conditions." He does not openly state that

the colony is in an insanitary state. In this connection how could he? But his letters and actions are admissions of entire want of confidence in the statements of his subordinate trio of experts, who proclaim the triumphant progress of sanitation in Hongkong "during the last twenty years," and who represent—unconvincingly to the sufferer it is true—that everything Officially that can be done has been done—to place it in a thorough sanitary condition. The community will unhesitatingly agree with His Excellency, however much they may admire the great ability, magnificent resourcefulness and supreme audacity of the three apologists.

It has been suggested that this is not the time for recrimination; and one local journal has good-naturedly withheld much criticism in consequence. It would have been well if the Officials responsible for the Memoranda had followed this example: it would have been better still had they kept before them the inestimable virtues of accuracy in statement and of sympathy with a good cause; for they were well aware that the Petitioners had but one object—the prosperity of the colony—and that the Petition was drafted with an earnest and studied desire to avoid offence and personalities. Had the case of the Petitioners been presented as vigorously as the subject deserved, there was much room for robust language and direct censure. Seeing the Petitioners have not had the opportunity of forwarding a reply to and with the Official statements, it is only proper that the Memoranda should be dealt with, however inefficiently; otherwise, in future years it may be quoted as a compilation of facts. In the interests of equity and truth this would indeed be sad, though it may be admitted that many facts are contained therein, and—a good many facts have been carefully omitted.

The first thing that presents itself for observation is a letter of H.E. the Governor, dated 5th July, 1901. The moderation of His Excellency, his marked sympathy with the Petitioners, and his evident earnest desire to undertake what may be essential to eradicate plague and other infectious diseases, have impressed most people. It is to be regretted that the gentlemen he engaged to rebut the statements in the Petition were not as reasonable. Unlike them H.E. is evidently open to conviction. Recognising the serious condition of affairs, he requests the services of an expert. This, of course, had been suggested previously to H.E.'s dispatch—in the third letter of "Scrutator" (a copy of which had been sent to the Colonial Office a month before) in numerous Press telegrams, and in the local newspapers. Therefore H.E. is to be praised for his prompt and sympathetic action in response to the manifest wish of the community. It is a tribute also to the utility of the local Press, which Officials are not apt to recognise until somewhat late in the day.

In par. 3, H.E. points out that he has "observed some mysterious connection between rinderpest and plague." H.E. is probably unaware that this was threshed out in 1896, when Staff-Surgeon Wilm identified the bacillus of plague and rinderpest as the same, a statement which unfortunately was completely disproved by Koch during his researches in South Africa.

In sub-section (f), H.E. describes the Tung Wa Hospital as "an excellent charitable institution supported entirely by the Chinese." This hospital is in receipt of a large Government grant. In par. 5, when the health of the only trained sanitary inspector broke down, H.E. "recommended the appointment of an assistant medical officer of health." For two years the Sanitary Board have been urging the appointment of an assistant to Dr. Clark.

In par. 6, it is stated that the public Press published letters and articles "that increased the alarm." Apparently this is a reference to the articles and correspondence which appeared in the newspapers, pointing out the existence of grave scandals, the apathy of the Government and its inability to adequately cope with the disastrous situation. When within a few weeks—to quote H.E.—"twenty-five Europeans had been attacked and nine had died," surely "the alarm" needed no incentive from the newspapers? The articles in the Press were endorsed by every doctor and civil engineer in the colony

and the Government naturally did not appreciate the publication of the true state of affairs. The Government was not slow to avail itself of several good suggestions made by that same newspaper correspondence, though its feeble and sporadic efforts had but little part in causing the gradual disappearance of the epidemic. The Military Authorities did likewise, but unlike the Government, have not hesitated to acknowledge such indebtedness.

In par. 7, H.E. refers to his possible theory that the plague epidemic is due to atmospheric condition, which is somewhat analogous to the idea that malaria is due to mists. There are but few laymen who dare venture to discuss the clinical aspects of plague, and H.E.'s courage in doing so is worthy of admiration if unsafe for general emulation. Personally the writer favours H.E.'s "atmospheric theory"—that is in Hongkong—for if H.E. in his rambles will get within even a thirty yards' radius of one of the shafts of our local drains—the system of which we are told is so perfect—he will be at once convinced that not only plague but many other deadly diseases are traceable to Hongkong's "atmospheric condition."

H.E. surely cannot be serious in writing "I have no reason to believe that the sanitary staff are not doing their duty faithfully?" If so, then he is an unconscious humourist. The sanitary staff is so absolutely insufficient—and inefficient—that as the Petitioners pointed out "a Sanitary Inspector takes two months to visit thoroughly his health district, a duty which should be done daily, and there is but one Inspector for the whole of the markets in the colony." H.E. goes on, "and if they are, then with the large powers given to the M.O.H. there should not be in Hongkong a house unfit for habitation, nor should any house be permitted to continue in an insanitary state." With due deference and respect to H.E., this may be described as absolute nonsense. H.E. should know—and as Mr. May once pointed out, it is the duty of a Governor to know—that houses unfit for human habitation have been repeatedly closed by the Sanitary Board and illegally reoccupied under the nose of the police. There are numbers of houses absolutely insanitary which the law cannot touch; and the Government knows well that half the Chinese buildings in the colony are insanitary owing to the habits of the Chinese, the majority of whom do not hesitate to use down rain-pipes, even closely adjoining their kitchens, as urinals and W.C.'s, and jam filth and rubbish into pipes not intended to receive it. The report on Hung Hom, page 17, is eloquent comment on H.E.'s statement.

In connection with H.E. having ordered wheeled ambulances, replacing the cots slung on poles, it must be remembered that the Sanitary Board asked for launches and ambulances, but could not get them "on account of expense," and ambulances were finally given on the strong memorandum sent in by Dr. Bell.

In par. 9, H.E. diplomatically remarks that he "obtained from Major-General Gascoigne the services of Dr. Stewart of the Indian Medical Service to relieve Dr. Thomson from his duties as medical officer of the gaol, so that his entire time should be devoted to plague work." Those who read "Scrutator's" third article will recollect the criminal negligence which was pointed out in connection with the Plague Hospital, and though it may be quite true H.E. applied for Lieut. Stewart, I.M.S., yet H.E. omits to state that Lieut. Stewart never acted as gaol surgeon but was acting assistant in the Civil Hospital, from the early part of the year. Dr. Lamont, a French physician, was gazetted for duty at the gaol, two days after the article describing the scandal appeared, and is still so acting. This error is made in two places in the book, and suggests a timidity in giving further publicity to the engagement of a French doctor.

In par. 11, H.E. refers to that very excellent innovation, the introduction of public bath-houses for Chinese. H.E. has deservedly received much credit for having sanctioned what the Government had hitherto persistently neglected, though recommended by Mr. Chadwick. As far back as 1892, the Sanitary Board proposed the erection of ten bath-houses—a proposal ignored by the Government. A few public baths for poor Europeans would also be appreciated.

In par. 12, reference is made to efforts to combat the disease, which unfortunately seemed to be unavailing. In this connection it should not be forgotten that the Legislative Council prevented the cleansing of the villages, and the Government did not move in the matter. Last February the Sanitary Board could obtain no sanction or assistance to carry out prophylactic measures.

Par. 13 hardly harmonises with the second part of par. 7, but it is consoling to know that the possibilities of future cost are not likely to exceed the past waste. H.E. is hardly correct in stating that Mr. Chadwick's reports are being widely read and considered, because there are only known to be two copies of the Report in the colony, one of which was placed at "Scrutator's" disposal by one of the pestilent local agitators, and was used in compiling the Petition. I doubt if the Government actually possess a copy. It is a pity this was overlooked by the compilers of the Memoranda, as it might indeed have formed an excuse for the Expert's reforms never having been carried out!

There is nothing more in H.E.'s report that calls for special comment. The local medicos, as might be expected, are sceptical of H.E.'s theories concerning plague, and regard even with levity H.E.'s references and conclusions. Professional men were ever thus opposed to the investigations of the layman, but the pursuance of such studies, even if the ultimate conclusions be denied acceptance, is worthy of much praise, and such devotion exhibits an earnest desire to do something for the benefit of an afflicted community. Unfortunately this is the age of specialists, and it may be argued that H.E.'s energies might be more profitably devoted to less technical subjects, and the investigation of plague left in the hands of those trained to deal with it. The expected arrival of the new bacteriologist should, however, set at rest any anxiety on this point.

In H.E.'s covering letter of 18th July, 1901, addressed to Mr. Chamberlain, there is only one paragraph that need be referred to, as the other statements are taken from the Official Memoranda, to which I intend to refer in a second article.

In par. 2, H.E. "fears the signatories to the Petition were not acquainted with the facts." It may be fairly pointed out that to their regret the majority of the Petitioners had experienced the facts contained in the Petition; and, furthermore, that in the Official explanation of the one "terrible difficulty" among others that the colony is placed in, none of the facts quoted in the Petition, mainly from Official documents and utterances, were disproved by the Official trio whose duty it was to explain, admit or refute them—or better still to have left them alone.

H.E. is needlessly going out of his way in stating "I observe that some of the signatures are those of aliens. The few Chinese whose signatures were obtained are, I am informed, men of small consideration among the Chinese community." Considering that the aliens pay rates and taxes, like the Chinese of much consideration who did not sign, they are surely entitled to the privilege of asking for adequate sanitary surroundings, nor are their lives of less value than those of other ratepayers. Such a theory is contrary to all British ideas of just government. As for the Chinese, H.E. was no doubt well aware that among the few who expressed a desire to sign, there were no less than four Chinese medical men, graduates in Western science; a Chinese lawyer and several newspaper editors. The others signatories were mostly leading store-keepers—men who usually know what they are doing, and are not exactly suckling babes. The Government, in fact, were well aware that Chinese signatures were not solicited, as they were unnecessary for the purpose the Petitioners had in view, and none must regret the lack of Chinese signatures more than the Government. What an opportunity it would have given the Trio for discouraging on "Chinese opposition to Sanitary Progress!" Lacking this they fell back on the unscrupulous landlords! It has been alleged, and not without reason, that the Government were indirectly concerned in the attempted opposition Petition from the Chinese. But this collapsed, and with it may also be buried other memories. *Requiescat in pace!*

SCRUTATOR.

THE SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF WARSHIPS.

ARRIVAL OF H.M.S. "GLORY."

H.M. flagship *Glory*, with Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge on board, dropped anchor in the harbour at half-past three o'clock on the 4th inst.

A representative of this paper boarded her, and found, as we anticipated, that the rumour of the *Glory* having been on the rocks was without foundation.

The *Glory* took up Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge at Fushan, where he arrived from Shanghai in H.M.S. *Alacrity*, and was on her way to Hongkong when she met the *Eclipse*, who informed her that a man-of-war was wanted at Amoy. The *Glory* promptly turned about and followed the *Eclipse* into Amoy, where everything was found quiet.

On her way to Amoy, the *Glory* met a French man-of-war, presumably the *Amiral Charnier*, on account of whose appearance at Amoy, it is said, a telegram came to Hongkong asking for a man-of-war, and instead of one, three were dispatched. It is thought the French ship put in at Amoy in connection with the much discussed French cable. The mysterious and sudden departure of the *Eclipse*, *Daphne*, and *Pigmy* is said to be due to a false alarm and nothing more. However, it is gratifying to see how promptly our defenders are ready if necessity arise.

The *Glory* upon leaving Amoy had a very rough passage, the weather being abominable.

Since the beginning of the week nothing further has transpired about the above incident.

VIOLENT LOCAL THUNDER-STORM.

H.M.S. "GLORY" STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

A thunderstorm of exceptional violence, accompanied by a gale of wind and torrential rains, raged throughout on the 4th inst. Since on the 5th inst. the weather had been unsettled and squally, and had given indications of the proximity of a typhoon. Toward Sunday afternoon appearances became even more unpromising, and as the day closed in everything pointed to a rough night. By eleven o'clock, lightning, followed by deafening peals of thunder, was playing freely and the wind blowing a gale, while drenching rain fell, causing the streets to be almost entirely deserted at an early hour. The storm reached its height between four and five o'clock on the 5th inst., when the lightning flashes were very frequent and vivid, lighting up the whole city and harbour and revealing everything as clearly as though it were mid-day. The Marconi signalling apparatus on H.M.S. *Glory* was struck by a flash of lightning and wrecked, about two-thirds of the apparatus becoming detached and crashing to the deck. Fortunately no one was injured, the decks, save for the watch, being deserted. The noise of the falling material was heard throughout the entire ship and caused no little anxiety until the exact nature of the accident became known. The apparatus will be temporarily refitted before the *Glory's* departure for the North on the 3rd inst.

Several thousand persons assembled in Independence Square, Philadelphia, on the 4th July, to hear H.E. Wu Ting-fang, the Chinese Minister, who was the principal speaker at the local Independence Day celebrations. The Minister was accorded a friendly reception, and was listened to with marked attention and was loudly cheered. Wu Ting-fang was accompanied by two detectives, owing to his having received a number of anonymous threatening letters. Nevertheless, it is said in America that H.E. Wu has accepted reappointment as Chinese Minister, and has been congratulated by Mr. Secretary Hay on his decision. The general opinion is that no other Chinese official has ever got to know the American people so thoroughly, or is so capable of judging their attitude with regard to China.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 5th August.

INTERNECINE CLAN FIGHTS.

Certain events of last week have given ample testimony to what a large extent the Chinese appreciate the value of shot and gun as a means of attack. The ways and means of obtaining the latter are varied, and therefore no elucidation is needed on the point. John Chinaman is well acquainted with the none too complicated mediums of procuring these articles, and I learn from various sources that the much coveted objects command quite fabulous prices at present. It only behoves the powers that be to be on the *qui vive* and keep a strict watch over this nefarious trade.

The above remarks may tend to explain somewhat the promptitude with which adverse clans engage, on the least provocation, and at times for purely imaginary reasons, in destructive strife. Shao An, where the late missionary troubles occurred, is for the nonce the arena of combat, in which, however, the native villagers alone are implicated. Strange, indeed, as it may appear to foreigners, the fact nevertheless exists that the cause of the present troubles is attributable solely and simply to the *Fengshui*. The exact state of affairs—it is well known that lack of accuracy is one of the Chinese foibles—is not precisely known, but from various reports to hand it is gathered that one of the villages in the Shao An district, inhabited by Shen people, enjoyed for quite a considerable time an immunity from all mishaps. But by force of circumstances the proverbial tide of luck, uncontrollable by mortals, turned in a very unfavourable direction, so that misfortunes of various natures have befallen the said village. The inhabitants laid the cause of all that happened at the door of the contiguous village, which they accused of having, through certain misdeeds, brought the *Fengshui* over them. Whereupon these two villages began fighting, a state of affairs which has lasted intermittently for about ten days. As both sides are well armed and possess a good store of ammunition, hostilities may not cease for a long time.

CASUALTIES.

In the penultimate impromptu engagement one side had four killed and 15 wounded and the other only 12 wounded. Were it not for bad marksmanship and utter lack of organisation a greater number of casualties would have to be recorded.

THE OFFICIAL ALARMED.

Magistrate Wu, of Shao An, owing to these occurrences, is greatly alarmed and feels quite unsafe. He sent an urgent appeal to Cheong-shew and requested the despatch of soldiers to quell the disturbance.

UNREST EVERYWHERE.

As if by magic disquiet has arisen simultaneously all around Swatow. In the Shao An district, besides the incident already above described, there is also fighting between the villages of Lao and Wong, whereby 15 were killed and 32 wounded; also between the villages of Lui and Tao, with casualties of 52 killed and 105 wounded. Enmity also exists between the villages situated at Kit-Young, Po-Ning, and Choy-Yang and; last but not least, at Wong-Kung, in the Jaopine district, whereat fighting is being now carried on. Unless the provincial authorities intervene and pacify the riotous villagers, local trade may suffer a severe check.

NO MORE ICE.

As reported in your columns, Messrs. Bradley & Co. erected here an ice manufactory which worked to everyone's satisfaction. Owing to the use of salt water, the main pipes corroded so badly that there will be no further supply of ice this season.

H. E. M. CONSUL.

Mr. James Scott is transferred as Acting Consul-General to Canton. His successor here is Mr. W. Hotham of Ichang.

THE FRENCH GUNBOAT

Dipire arrived here on Saturday, and will proceed to Nanchow. It is said for target practice (?), in a day or two.

THE WEATHER.

During the last week of July the heat was unbearable, the thermometer registering as high as 94 in the shade. It was a great relief

when a moderate breeze sprang up on Saturday last and became a veritable typhoon, as the force of the wind was about 10 of Beaufort's Scale. This outburst of bad weather caused several small damages to Chinese houses and considerable damage to the shipping companies' pontoons.

TONKIN NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Hanoi, 1st August.

PUBLIC INSECURITY AND THE POLICE.

Considerable excitement has been caused among the European population here by numerous thefts and murders committed by natives in various parts of the Colony. Recently a most audacious robbery was carried out by armed violence during the night. The house in which this occurred was that of a well-known contractor in Hanoi. It is felt that such a state of affairs must be put an end to. The colonial Press attributes its existence to the negligence of the Police and asks for a new and more effective organisation of the force.

M. DOUMER'S RETURN.

The announcement of the fast approaching return of M. Doumer, Governor-General of French Indo-China, has not yet been commented on in the Tonkin papers. However, it may be said, the promulgation of the law for the construction of the Yunnan railway line is not a very great victory for M. Doumer. The opposition which the colony generally has shown obtains day by day many new adherents, and everybody here disapproves of a Governor who, neglecting the tax-payers' interests, plays only to the gallery, and works only for petty glory.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE.

A funeral ceremony has recently been celebrated at our cathedral church, in remembrance of General Bergais-Desbordes, late Commander-in-Chief of the Indo-Chinese forces, who died last year in this colony. General Dodds, the present Commander-in-Chief, and his staff, numerous officers, officials and colonists were present. Mgr. Gendron, Bishop of Hanoi, gave general absolution.

A MISSION TO YUNNANFU.

Last week, an engineering mission left here for Yunnanfu. The local press announces that this mission has received orders to return to Hanoi and that it will start again a few days after the return of M. Doumer.

THE COMING EXHIBITION.

The works in connection with the Hanoi 1902 Exhibition are very well advanced. The buildings will be standing next month and the *tout ensemble* is already of a very pleasing appearance. The exhibitors will be very numerous. Trade and industries of English possessions near French Indo-China will be very fully represented. The General Commissioner will shortly communicate the conditions of the exhibition.

THE MURDER OF M. MARTIN.

The Police are making very strenuous efforts in the district of Bac-Ninh to discover the murderers of M. Martin, who was recently assassinated, as you have already reported. M. de Mahé, the Bac-Ninh Resident, and several mandarins will certainly be out of favour. Their responsibility is very much compromised by the affair and the local Press generally demands their disgrace or their removal elsewhere.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE COLONY.

Next October there will take place here the elections for the representation of Annam and Tonkin. We already know the names of several candidates:—M. Depincé, ex-resident; M. Jean Hess, Manager of the *Magasin Colonial et du Voyage*; M. Jung, ex-official and now a colonist; and Doctor Le Lan, officer of the Academy and Hanoi Municipal Councillor.

M. Depincé left here very excellent memories, and his candidature, supported by the Colonial Union, has favourable chances. M. Jean Hess, well-known since the Jukanthor affair, is not very favourably regarded by the colonists. He has not spared enough in his review. M. Hess is sharply criticised by the Tonkin papers and his defeat is certain. Mr. Jung, now on a holiday in Paris, conducts in the press of the capital city a vigorous polemic against M. Doumer's policy. Mr. Jung has just addressed

very interesting communications to *L'Indépendance Tonkinoise*, and his election would be very advantageous for all the colonists. But M. Jung runs up against official opposition, and his election is not looked on as certain. Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, deputy for the Sarthe Department, has been solicited by several political friends to accept the important functions of delegate, but his candidature is very problematic. It would, however, be a good one. The most favoured candidate seems to be Doctor Le Lan. Well known in Annam and Tonkin, he has lived in the latter country more than twelve years. Dr. Le Lan has numerous friends in the colony, and his election can be held as certain.

THE PRESS AND THE ELECTION.

The Tonkin Press comments on this important question of our representation. The *Courier d'Haiphong* and the *Revue Indo-Chinoise* go for Jean Hess, whom they call "an inexperienced Dreyfusard." The *Petit Tonkinois* holds that the Delegate must be chosen from among the colony's inhabitants. On the other hand, the *Indépendance Tonkinoise* believes that a Tonkinese colonist cannot forsake his private business, and that the delegate's functions would preferably be confided to an ex-colonist, who has gone home to France. At all events, everybody here wishes for a serious, active and experienced delegate, able to appear before Parliament and the Budget Commission, to expose the financial, economic, commercial and other necessities of the colony.

M. de Lanesan, Naval Minister and Acting Delegate of Annam and Tonkin, will not be elected again.

THE CHINA LEAGUE AND THE TARIFF.

Mr. A. R. Burkhill, Hon. Sec. of the China League, has forwarded to us copies of the following correspondence, etc., relating to the Chinese Customs Tariff:—

The China League, 17th June, 1901.

My Lord,—The Honorary Secretary of the China Association has courteously handed me copies of telegrams which have been addressed to the London Committee of that Association by its Eastern Branches regarding the project of restoring the Chinese Customs tariff to an effective 5 per cent., together with copy of a memorandum examining the circumstances of the case, dated the 2nd June. (Copies enclosed.)

The Committee of the China League wishes to place on record its entire agreement with the Shanghai and Hongkong Committees of the China Association in their objection to any increase in the import tariff at the present moment, and to protest against any concession being made to China in the matter of tariff increase whilst the grievances of British traders remain unrelieved.

It is admitted in principle that China is entitled, under the treaties, to an effective 5 per cent. import tariff, but British traders are equally entitled to an effective and operative 2½ per cent. transit duty, which shall free their merchandise from "all further charges whatsoever," and to other rights obtained in treaties and conventions which China has nullified in practice.

The one claim is as incontestable as the other.

The China League, however, denies the justice of China's claim to her treaty right of an effective 5 per cent. import tariff, so long as other obligations towards foreign trade in the Tientsin Treaty remain unfulfilled.

Further, revision of the tariff to be satisfactory must be exhaustive, well-considered and suited to meet the present conditions of trade. The proposed effective 5 per cent. arrangement is a mere tinkering with the question. It suggests no remedy for the long standing grievances of foreign and native merchants, it provides no protection against illegal exactions on merchandise in transit. It simply gives the Imperial Government about 4,000,000 taels per annum for the asking, and defers *sine die* the whole question of revision and reform.

In 1896, when Li Hung-chang proposed doubling the existing tariff, Lord Salisbury assured the foreign commercial community in China that no increase in the tariff would be agreed to by H.B.M.'s Government until the Chambers of

Commerce had been consulted and had had an opportunity of expressing their views.

Recently, your Lordship has given the country to understand that you consider the present crisis as inopportune for a revision of our tariff with China, and that fiscal reform generally must accompany an increase in such tariff.

It appears to the China League to be a continuation of bad policy in China to throw away, or to blunt the point of, an instrument so serviceable as an increased import tariff must prove in securing reform in fiscal matters generally, and in obtaining an honest observance of our treaty rights. If money is to be raised from new sources to meet the heavy claims of the Continental Powers, there are better means to that end than increased taxation of (mainly British) imports, e.g., the assumption of control by the Imperial Maritime Customs over the native junk trade would improve revenue, simplify administration and facilitate trade.

For the above reasons the China League joins with the Shanghai and Hongkong Committees of the China Association in protesting against the proposed effective 5 per cent. tariff without compensating advantages.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. R. BURKILL,

Hon. Secy., China League.

The Most Hon.

The MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, K.G.

Telegrams.

Shanghai Committee to General Committee:

Shanghai, 22nd May, 1901.

Understood British Minister proposes immediate restoration effective 5 per cent. import tariff, reserving question further increase until Clause II protocol considered. Maintain protest (against) any meddling tariff (for) reasons contained (in) recent telegrams.

Hongkong Committee to General Committee:

Hongkong, 1st June, 1901.

Hongkong deprecates proposed effective 5 per cent. tariff without compensating advantages. Strongly supports Shanghai telegram.

The following are the telegrams referred to:—

Shanghai Committee to General Committee:

Shanghai, 4th April, 1901.

Re indemnity, there is every reason to believe certain Powers propose international guaranteed loan secured (by) simple process of drastic tariff increase. Strongest possible protest should be made, as, although increased tariff admissible, such hasty action (in) treatment tariff destroys only available lever redress present grievances, besides menacing trade expansion. Should bring pressure to bear China (to) provide service indemnity from existing sources native revenue which (if) honestly collected, known capable adequate expansion. Present conference eleven Ministers (several of whom represent no commercial interests), eminently unsuited settle complex commercial questions which should be reserved for future settlement, later, by leading commercial Powers.

Shanghai, 3rd May, 1901.

Re our wire of 4th April, we understand that, England, America, Japan excepted, the Powers (are still) urging the immediate increase import tariff basis 10 per cent. Question referred Home Governments. We request you urgently repeat protest.

Memorandum.

It is easy to comprehend the feeling which inspires these telegrams. One naturally objects to be made to help pay other people's excessive indemnities which one disapproves; and there is logic in the objection to letting go any leverage—even the modicum involved in restoration of an effective 5 per cent.—without exacting an equivalent modicum of reform.

If one were dealing with an ordinary State, China would, in seems to me, have an incontestable right to the increase. The schedule of values attached to the treaty is not a fixed and integral portion of it. It simply expressed a temporary fact, and has been liable to revision at each recurring decade, if the Chinese Government had been less slovenly and negligent. As it differs widely from existing facts the Chinese are clearly entitled

to readjustment. H. M. Government seem, moreover, to have admitted the principle. But if we conscientiously agree to fulfil the Treaty on our side, we are entitled to require that the Chinese shall fulfil it on theirs. Might not the opportunity be taken to insist once more that they shall effectively observe, *inter alia*, Art. 28 of the Treaty of Tientsin? It may be objected, of course, that this would be to attack sources of revenue of which the Authorities stand more than ever in need. The objection might be met in so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned by recognising the fact that Inland dues are a Provincial perquisite and that the stipulated 2½ per cent. commutation belongs therefore to the Provincial Exchequer. The Association has long maintained that the absorption into the Imperial Customs Revenue of the revenue derived from Transit Passes is largely responsible for the hostility which has been shown to them by the local officials. It may be rejoined, of course, that this would still be a financial juggle; and that the Imperial resources would be diminished *pro tanto* if the principle were effectively recognised by providing that the Transit Dues shall in future be paid to the Provincial Governments to whom they belong.

Two reflections however suggest themselves:—(1) That the Imperial revenue would be measurably recouped by the expansion that might be anticipated if trade were relieved from embarrassing imposts. (2) That an aggravation of inland taxation—as one method of meeting foreign exactions—may be anticipated unless countervailing precautions be taken.

A parallel line of thought suggests the question why the import tariff only should be restored to an effective 5 per cent. The export duty on silk is as much below parity as the import duty on shirtings. That on tea is extravagantly in excess, having been purposely left untouched at a time (before the genesis of the trade in India and Ceylon) when China had a monopoly, and it was thought no harm could ensue from high taxation. Both are subjected, moreover, to heavy inland taxation, and on the recognised principle that a country pays for its imports with its exports, a rectification of the burdens on produce with a view to promoting export trade would seem as desirable as a readjustment of the import dues.

The questions indicated may be far-reaching, but they come within the four corners of the present treaty; nor is the list exhaustive.

The contention clearly is that all the rectification should not be on one side; but that the opportunity should be taken to insist on reciprocal corrections.

(Signed) R. S. GUNDRY.

159, Cannon Street,
London, 2nd June, 1901.

Foreign Office, June 25th, 1901.

Sir,—I am directed by the Marquis of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, respecting the proposal to raise the Chinese Customs Tariff to an effective 5 per cent. and stating that the Committee of the China League desire to place on record their agreement with the views expressed by the Shanghai and Hongkong Committees of the China Association on the subject.

The telegrams and memorandum enclosed in your letter had already been received in this Department from the China Association, and had engaged His Lordship's attention.

I am to point out that the assumption that it is proposed to agree to the increase of the Chinese Tariff to an effective 5 per cent. without obtaining any concessions in return is erroneous, and that the matter is now under consideration by the representatives of the Powers at Peking.

I am to add that before any addition beyond the treaty rate of five per cent. is agreed to, care will be taken to ascertain the views of those interested in the China Trade.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,
(Signed) FRANCIS BEETIE.

A. R. BURKILL, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary, China League.

China League, July 4th, 1901.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's letter under date 25th June.

The Committee of the China League are much gratified to learn that there is no intention of agreeing to an increase in the Chinese Import Tariff to an effective 5 per cent. without obtaining concessions in return. Also, to receive your Lordship's assurance that before any addition beyond the Treaty rate of 5 per cent. is agreed to, care will be taken to ascertain the views of those interested in the China trade. My Committee are satisfied that these assurances will be as welcome to the Chambers of Commerce (to whom I am communicating them) and to commercial community generally, as they are to the China League.

I have now merely to emphasise, on behalf of the League, the following points in connection with an increased import duty:—

The right to an effective five per cent. import tariff is conferred on the Imperial Government by treaty; the full enjoyment of that right entails upon that Government the obligation of fulfilling as fully and as honestly the rights to which British traders are entitled under the same treaties.

The League claims briefly that all treaty provisions shall have full effect given to them, not only those favouring the Imperial Government, but also those on which foreigners rely in their commercial intercourse with natives.

Of first importance is the right conferred on British traders by the Tientsin treaty to convey imports from a port to an inland market, and native produce from the interior to a port for foreign export under transit passes and on payment of two and a half per cent. transit duty, free from all further charge whatever.

Your Lordship must be as fully conversant as the League is, with other rights which remain unfulfilled by the Imperial Government, or which have been nullified in practice.

If the concessions which your Lordship mentions as being under the consideration of the representatives of the Powers in Peking result in making operative the undoubted rights of British traders under our treaties with China, the increase in the import duty will be cheerfully accepted by those interested in the China trade.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) A. R. BURKILL.
Hon. Secretary.

The Most Hon.

The MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, K.G.,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

THE THEATRE.

The Australian Vaudeville and Specialty Company gave another very successful performance on the 3rd inst., before a large audience, the bottom portion of the house being filled to overflowing. The programme was an entire change of that which had been given at the previous performances, and the entertainment went off with a capital swing. The opening chorus of selections from "The Geisha" was remarkably well rendered and was loudly applauded. "The Carnival" Miss Jessie Forde rendered very artistically, and, with the excellent artistic singing of Miss Beatrice Warde, kept the performance from deteriorating entirely to the level of comic songs. In her song "One heart divine" Miss Warde was heard to much advantage, and was recalled. The other portions of the first part of the programme were made up mostly of comic and coon songs with which the company gave much pleasure to the audience. Mr. W. F. Cullen sang several baritone songs, and was recalled; we have half a dozen amateurs who would give the "eminent baritone" points in singing. Mr. Sam Rowley has a wonderful voice, which was thrown away on the nonsense he sang, though he was very funny and was encored. The Sisters Linwood gave a very pleasing dance, and were followed by Miss B. Warde in her careful rendering of "If all the stars were wine." One of the best numbers of the programme was the clever operatic sketch by Miss Annie Moore and Miss Jessie Forde of "Oh my daughter" from *The Gaiety Girl*. Miss Moore's representation of the parson was remarkably good, and Miss Forde made a pretty daughter. These two young artistes have grown much since they were before an Eastern audience with Pollard's Lilliputians, but they have lost none of their former

skill. Miss Forde's voice, if well trained, gives promise of a successful future in operatic work, whilst Miss Moore should, with her marked ability, take a prominent place in Australian dramatic circles. The company will repeat their performance nightly, and it deserves to be well patronised by those partial to a variety performance.

The Australian Vaudeville and Specialty Company continues to attract a large number of people to the City Hall, the lower part of the house being filled night after night. On Wednesday another complete change of programme was given, and the same bill was repeated on Thursday. It was evidently much appreciated by an enthusiastic audience, who continually demanded encores. At times the calls were rather too numerous and must have been very trying to the performers, who, in spite of the heat, gladly did their best to comply. Special mention must be made of Professor Davis's clever performance illustrating "how modern ghosts are raised," which was really a bewildering spectacle. It is a variation of the "cabinet" trick, but is considerably elaborated and very effective. The latest programme is a good and attractive one, but nevertheless for tonight the management announce another change of bill, when new songs, new dances and new sketches, in fact everything new, will be introduced to the public.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE SENSITIVE PLANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

7th August.

SIR,—Whose business is it to look after the places along the roads, both on the lower levels and in the Peak District? It should be the duty of the Afforestation Department, I imagine, but it is clear that no one pays any attention to the waste places or endeavours to keep down the rank vegetation so prolific of mosquitoes and flies. All along the sides of the paths and roads several intrusive and pernicious weeds have sprung up which threaten, if not promptly checked, to overrun the colony. Among these the sensitive plant—an imported nuisance—is especially to be remarked. It grows and spreads itself with amazing rapidity, and takes a most tenacious hold of the soil. It is, in many places, choking the turf, and is of a decidedly blighting and mischievous habit, being also thorny. A weed that bears a rather ugly blue flower is also much in evidence wherever there is any moisture. Several other plants—imported weeds from other places—require to be rooted vigorously up. But who will do it? In the absence of Mr. Ford, who will undertake this work? The Afforestation Department is sadly undermanned, but a body of coolies, under a gardener's supervision, could carry out such a task. Will not His Excellency the Governor—who is, I believe, a sworn foe to *anopheles*—give the necessary orders for these weeds to be exterminated, together with the too present convolvulus, the removal of dead branches, decaying vegetation, and other unsightly and unwholesome matter?—Yours, etc.,

AN ENEMY TO WEEDS.

P.S.—I think a little attention might also be given to the very useful gas-pipe rails which are provided in some—though unfortunately not all—of the dangerous places on the Peak roads. These should be frequently tarred or painted. Owing to long neglect, one of these railings (near the Mount Austin Barracks) is simply falling to pieces from rust corrosion.

BROKERAGE IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

8th August.

SIR,—There is an interesting leading article in the *North-China Daily News* of 30th July on the commission charged by sharebrokers there, but the writer of that article evidently has not studied the Hongkong scale or he would not have written as follows:—

"There is no place under the sun where such a high brokerage obtains as in Shanghai;

certainly none where the recompense is less commensurate with the work actually done."

In Shanghai the commission charged is 1 per cent. to the seller only, but that is nothing compared to the commission charged here on many stocks—take a few for example:—

	Market value.	Brokerage buying and selling.
Jebebus ...	\$ 4 50	10 cents each way
China Providents \$	9.75	10 "
Watsons ...	\$16	15 "
Raub ...	\$12 50	20 "
Green Islands ...	\$21	25 "
China Traders ...	\$60	50 "

or the broker charging brokerage to both buyer and seller makes 2 per cent. to 4 per cent. on a deal before the principal can make a profit. The scale is absurd, and if, as the Shanghai writer states, "the sharebroker there fattens on his 1 per cent. commission from the original seller and a possible second commission of 1 per cent. on the resale, to say nothing of future possibilities in brokerage from a diligent tracking of these identical shares," what unnecessary profits the sharebroker here must be making at the expense of the general public when chasing round the town a few hundred Providents, Jebebus and such stocks!

I am well aware that the broker in Hongkong may consider himself underpaid when putting through transactions in Docks, Banks, Lands, Unions and a few other big stocks, but as a rule here he makes a good deal more than 1 per cent. commission on his transactions, and the principal who takes a moderate risk and only looks forward to a moderate profit is a good deal worse off here than in Shanghai.

There is a remedy, of course, for the principal, and that is to leave the small stocks alone as much as possible, as, other things being equal, it is distinctly more favourable to the investor to buy (say) 10 Docks, value \$3,000, and pay \$10 brokerage, when buying and selling, than to buy (say) 250 Electrics, value \$3,000, and pay \$75 brokerage.

The scale here is, of course, absurd and why do we not pay a fixed percentage as elsewhere? 1 per cent. to the seller only on small transactions and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on large transactions should be a good and fair remuneration to the broker, and I think it is quite time the Chamber of Commerce should insist on a more equitable scale.—Yours, etc.,

INVESTOR.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the seventy-second report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, on Saturday at noon:—

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank and balance-sheet for the half-year ending 30th June, 1901.

The net profits for that period, including \$1,410,272.65, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$3,479,515.99.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$750,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$3,750,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation \$2,714,515.99, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb \$533,333.33.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1s. 11d. 7-16ths the rate of the day, amounts to \$695,466.67.

The balance \$1,485,715.99 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

The Honourable J. J. Keswick, the Honourable R. M. Gray, and Mr. P. Sachse having resigned their seats on leaving the colony, the Honourable J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. H. E. Tomkins, and Mr. H. Schubart have been invited to fill the vacancies, respectively; all these appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. C. S. Sharp, who offer themselves for re-election.

R. SHEWAN, Chairman.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1901.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

30th June, 1901.	
ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash	41,997,778.68
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against note circulation in excess of \$10,000,000	3,986,000.00
Bullion in hand and in transit	6,987,983.43
Indian Government rupee paper	2,043,783.53
Consols, colonial and other securities	6,033,859.45
Sterling reserve fund investments, viz.:—	
£250,000 2½ per cent. consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve, at 90 £225,000	1,900,000.00
£222,500 2½ per cent. consols, £300,000 2½ per cent. national war loan at 90 £470,250	1,702,500.00
£353,500 other sterling securities standing in the books at £339,750	3,397,500.00
	10,000,000.00
Bills discounted, loans and credits	75,426,204.11
Bills receivable	74,756,783.65
Bank premises	719,503.60
	\$221,951,896.45

LIABILITIES.	
	\$ c.
Paid-up capital	10,000,000.00
Sterling reserve fund	10,000,000.00
Silver reserve fund	3,000,000.00
Marine insurance account	250,000.00
Notes in circulation:—	
Authorised issue against securities deposited with the Crown agents for the colonies	10,000,000.00
Additional issue authorised by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1900, against coin lodged with the Hongkong Government	2,561,679.38
	12,561,679.38
Current accounts:—	
Silver	70,109,213.74
Gold, £2,393,551 15s. 4d.	24,476,700.35
	94,585,914.09
Fixed deposits:—	
Silver	36,451,538.32
Gold, £3,467,783 2s. 8d.	35,498,411.20
	71,949,949.52
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)	16,124,837.47
Profit and loss account	3,479,515.99
Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted, £4,801,676 16s. 7d. of which up to this date £3,235,520 have run off.	
	\$221,951,896.45

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1901.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To amounts written off: Remuneration to directors	15,000.00
To dividend account: £1 10s. per share on 80,000 shares £120,000 at 4s. 6d.	533,333.33
To dividend adjustment account: Difference in exchange between 4s. 6d. the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1s. 11d. 7-16ths the current rate of the day	695,466.67
To transfer to silver reserve fund	750,000.00
To balance forward to next half-year	1,485,715.99
	\$3,479,515.99

Cr.	
	\$ c.
By balance of undivided profits, 31st December, 1900	1,410,272.65
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 30th June, 1901, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	2,069,243.34
	3,479,515.99
	\$3,479,515.99

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

\$ c.	
To balance	10,000,000.00
By balance 31st December, 1900 (invested in sterling securities)	10,000,000.00

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

\$ c.	
To balance	3,750,000.00
By balance 31st December, 1900	3,000,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account	750,000.00
	\$3,750,000.00

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LTD.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held on the 6th inst. The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving (chairman) presided, and the other gentlemen present were:—Messrs. N. A. Siebs, F. A. Gomez, R. Shewan, P. Witkowski (directors), T. Arnold (secretary), S. A. Joseph, A. da Silva, F. Henderson, J. N. Goosmann, A. G. Stokes, J. Leiria, Dr. Noble, and Captain Farrow.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts now before you, which with your permission we will take as read, so fully explain the present position of the Company's affairs that I do not propose to supplement them with many remarks of my own. The expectation which was expressed at our last meeting that the improvement in the earnings would be maintained has, I am pleased to say, been fully realised, the result of the steamers working for the half-year being the best on record and some \$55,000 better than that of the corresponding six months of 1900. These earnings must perhaps be regarded as exceptional, but in the event of no further opposition, your directors feel confident that the present dividend can be maintained. With regard to the appropriation of the remainder of the profits, it is hardly necessary for me to dwell upon the soundness of the policy of writing down the value of our steamers and of adding to the equalisation of dividend fund as opportunity offers: the larger our reserves the less likelihood there is of opposition, and the better position we are in to meet it if it should come. I may say that in the event of any serious opposition to the business of this Company your directors are quite determined to lower rates to a point which would render such opposition unremunerative, and it is with this contingency in view that they are desirous of building up the equalisation of dividend fund. Gentlemen, I think that from all points of view the present position of the Company is most satisfactory and that the report and accounts now presented should be gratifying to shareholders. Unless further information be desired I will now propose that they be adopted.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. STOKES seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Captain FARROW then proposed that the meeting confirm the appointment of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving to the Board of Directors.

The proposal was seconded by Mr. JOSEPH, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. GOOSMANN, seconded by Mr. DA SILVA, moved the re-election of Messrs. Siebs and Haupt as directors.

This was also carried.

Messrs. O'D. Gourdin and Henderson, on the motion of Dr. NOBLE, who was seconded by Mr. LEIRIA, were re-elected as auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready by ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 2nd August.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

COLLISION CASE.

The hearing of this action was resumed. The plaintiffs, Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd., sued the defendant, the owner of the steam-launch Kwong Wo, for \$2,000 damages for collision with their launch Belle. The Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson), represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Master), the defendant.

After hearing the arguments of counsel, His Lordship proceeded to sum up. He reviewed the evidence that had been adduced by both parties, and laid great stress on that of the two experienced officers of the *Diamond*, Mr. Notley

and Mr. Rodger, which he characterised as utterly disinterested and unimpeachable, and which had been borne out by his personal review from the steamer on Thursday morning.

Judgment, with costs, was entered for the defendant, the owner of the *Kwong Wo*.

Tuesday, 6th August.

SPECIAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A JURY.

A MULTIFARIOUS INDICTMENT.

Li Yung was charged on an indictment of fourteen counts with (1) obtaining money by false pretences, and (2) uttering and publishing a forged and counterfeited writing with intent to defraud. Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. J. F. Reece, solicitor), defended.

When the prisoner had been charged, counsel for the defence asked His Lordship to quash the indictment on the ground that there were combined in the indictment several entirely separate charges of different dates, in connection with different persons, and involving different properties and amounts—totally separate and independent transactions having no connection one with another. Although by law the Attorney-General was undoubtedly at liberty to combine in one indictment charges with reference to a number of separate offences or misdemeanours, it was not the practice of the Court to allow such an indictment. The same rule prevailed, and had prevailed for many years, in England. Mr. Francis then went over the counts of the indictment, classifying them in their relationship or otherwise to each other, and contended that the obvious course was for the prosecution to quash the proceedings or to elect a charge upon which to try the prisoner.

His Lordship—What counts do you object to?

Mr. Francis—I object to count 2 in the first instance, and to counts 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13.

Counsel quoted extensively from various authorities, and, concluding, said that no charge should be brought before the Criminal Sessions by indictment unless there had been a full and proper investigation at the Police Court of the subject matter of that indictment. There had been no such investigation before the Magistrate, and, further, the charges at the Police Court were made under a different Ordinance and under a different Section from the charges now before His Lordship.

Mr. Pollock replied at equal length. He argued that the Attorney-General had power to institute such proceedings as to him might seem legal and proper, and to determine the precise nature of the charge to be based on the evidence taken at the Police Court. It had very frequently happened that the Attorney-General brought charges into that Court which did not correspond with the charges laid in the Police Court. The matter, in short, was simply one for the discretion of the Attorney-General. With regard to the joinder of the different counts in the indictment, counsel referred His Lordship to Sub-Section 3, Section 19, of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, which provides that any number of counts may be joined in the same indictment when these counts have reference to the same charge. That Section clearly showed that the quashing of the indictment would not be the correct course to pursue. The proper course, assuming that His Lordship came to the conclusion that all of those counts ought not to be brought together under one indictment, would be to separate some counts from the others and proceed thereon. Mr. Pollock submitted, however, that the different counts ought to be tried together, as the matters forming the subject of the fourteen counts in the indictment showed what might be called a course of dishonest conduct on the part of the prisoner. It would not be proper to compartment off four separate transactions, and, taking one, say—“Well, this transaction is going to be considered alone, and as regards other similar transactions we won't enquire into them at all.” No harm could be done to the prisoner

by having all the counts included in one indictment, and, that being so, it was obviously convenient to have the matter dealt with at once and to proceed on the different charges. The other course would involve four separate trials, and no sufficient reason had been shown by the other side why the counts should be separated.

Mr. Francis disputed Mr. Pollock's contention that the power to determine the nature of the charge to be based on the depositions from the Police Court was vested solely in the Attorney-General. If that were so, a cadet with no experience of the law might be the one to decide what was a legal and proper course to pursue. The Attorney-General's arguments were utterly irrelevant to the point at issue, and he was endeavouring to secure a verdict on one charge by bringing four or five into the indictment. There would be a little bit of evidence in support of one and a little bit of evidence in support of another, and the jury would be asked to piece these fragments together and decide that the prisoner was guilty. Mr. Francis submitted that the case was one in which His Lordship should exercise his undoubted discretion and direct separate trials on each of the separate transactions alleged in the indictment.

His Lordship decided not to quash the indictment, but was of opinion that the charges should be taken separately, as it would probably cause great embarrassment to take them in one trial. It would be left to the Attorney-General to decide what charges would be gone on with.

Mr. Pollock—I shall take the first five counts, but I do not abandon the other counts in any sense at all.

His Lordship—Oh no, not at all.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurymen were empanelled:—Messrs. R. G. Smithers, A. N. Huks, J. Galt, C. D. Hoppenberg, H. Burton, N. G. Meyer, and R. A. Dusta.

In stating the case for the prosecution, Mr. Pollock said the first, second, fourth and fifth counts of the indictment related to obtaining money by false pretences, and the third count to uttering and publishing a certain writing as true, with intent to defraud. It would be proved that the defendant, in February, 1900, sold a piece of land in the New Territory to two persons for the sum of \$5,000, one of the two taking two-thirds and the other the remaining one-third. The allocation of the land was close to the Channel Rocks, and, as could be seen from the map exhibited, represented a considerable strip. It would be proved by the buyers of the property that the defendant represented himself as being its sole owner, and that he produced a deed in proof. A certain Chinese official—the Chief Clerk at the Namtau District Magistracy—would be called to prove that that was forged. The date on the deed was some time in December, 1864, but if a man were trying to obtain property by forgery he would not be so foolish as to make a deed of recent date, as some suspicion might thereby attach to himself. There was therefore nothing very extraordinary in the deed being dated a good many years back. Bargain money for the property, to the amount of \$1,000, was paid to the defendant in February, 1900, and on 16th May, 1900, was handed over the balance of \$4,000. The defendant signed an assignment transferring the property to the two buyers; the assignment was prepared by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors. With regard to the property, evidence would be produced to show that since its sale the defendant himself had made a statement in the Land Court as to tenants paying rent to the Li clan or family, and not to him, thus showing that he was not the owner of the land at all. As for the deed of assignment by which the defendant obtained the \$5,000, that, as had been said, would be shown to be a forgery, and it would also be submitted by the prosecution that the defendant had guilty knowledge in the matter, as he must have known that the document was a forgery and that the property he purported to sell was not his own sole property.

Evidence was heard throughout Wednesday and Thursday, and the case was still unfinished yesterday.

Wednesday, 7th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE-SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CAPTAIN TREFUSIS CLAIMS DAMAGES FOR A DEAD PONY.

Captain the Hon. H. W. F. Trefusis, *aide-de-camp* to the General Officer Commanding in China, sued Kwok Kong, master of the second-class licensed junk No. 532, for \$325 damages on the ground of the negligence of the defendant in carrying a pony by junk from the transport *Nurani* to the Commissariat Pier, whereby the said pony was so much damaged that it died.

Mr. J. Hastings (of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. Pontifex (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) the defendant.

Mr. Hastings said he had just learned that a very important witness had gone to Canton, and although he (Mr. Hastings) was prepared to go on with his other witnesses, he should like to be afforded an opportunity of examining the one who had gone to Canton. The case might be held over till his return.

Mr. Pontifex—I object to the delay, my Lord.

Mr. Hastings—Oh, you would object to anything.

His Lordship agreed to Mr. Hastings' request.

Opening the case for the plaintiff, Mr. Hastings said the pony in question was consigned by Commander Erskine, of the *Alacrity*, to the care of the plaintiff, Captain Trefusis, in Hongkong, with instructions to land it here and to keep it for him until his arrival in Hongkong. In pursuance of that request, Captain Trefusis, through the contractor of the Commissariat Department, engaged a junk for the purpose of landing the pony at the Commissariat Pier, and the owner of the junk, the defendant, either by himself or by his servants, agreed for a certain sum—\$420—to take delivery of the pony from the steamer, to land it at the Commissariat wharf, and to provide the necessary tackle and machinery for hoisting it from the junk to the wharf. In pursuance of that agreement, the defendant took delivery of the pony from the steamer and brought it to the Commissariat Pier. He then proceeded, by means of a derriek and windlass, to hoist the pony, which was in a box, on to the wharf, but when the pony was up to the height of the wharf the rope broke, and pony and box fell back into the cargo-boat. The pony received very severe injuries and died shortly afterwards. The junk people then ran away, all except one old woman, and the defendant had never been seen since. Thus deserted, the cargo-boat grounded, and coolies had to be obtained to haul her off. A steam launch was then hired to tow the cargo-boat, with the corpse of the pony on board, down to Causeway Bay, where the animal was buried by Mr. Kennedy, of the Horse Repository. In view of these facts the defendant was charged with negligence in performing his agreement to carry the pony safely from the steamer to the Commissariat Pier. That agreement, of course, implied the providing of the necessary tackle for the hoisting of the pony, and the exercise of due care in the process. The present action was commenced in the name of Captain Trefusis, and was so commenced on the authority of several cases doubtless within his Lordship's knowledge. Captain Trefusis was the bailee of the pony, and the authorities in question showed that a bailee had power to sue for damages done to his bail, and to recover. Captain Trefusis, as bailee of the pony, had suffered some damages which he was entitled to recover from the defendant.

The evidence of Captain Trefusis, which had been previously heard in chambers, was read by Mr. D'Almada e Castro, Clerk of the Court. It was to the effect that Commander Erskine, of the *Alacrity*, whilst at Weihaiwei, wrote to the plaintiff and asked him to take charge of the pony until Commander Erskine's arrival in Hongkong. The *Nurani* arrived in the afternoon of 4th July, but the pony was injured whilst being hoisted from the junk to the wharf, and died. Plaintiff did not see the pony till after its death. It was an Arab, and was valued at thirty guineas.

In cross-examination by Mr. Master, plaintiff said he had not lost anything through the death of the pony. He had paid nothing, and would have to pay nothing, to Commander Erskine. Commander Erskine had telegraphed the value of the pony to him; that was his only reason for valuing the animal at thirty guineas.

Mr. Hastings—I think Captain Trefusis said—although it is not given in that statement—that he had not suffered any damage except that he had to bury the pony.

Evidence was then led.

Abdulla Fackara, contractor for the Army Commissariat Department, said he received orders to engage a junk to take the pony ashore. Since July, 1900, he had received many similar orders. It was the custom for the tackle to be provided by the cargo-boat people except at the time of discharge from the steamer. At half-past three on the day of the accident witness was called by a messenger, and on going to the Commissariat Pier saw the pony lying dead in the defendant's cargo-boat. The only person on board was an old woman. Witness looked round the junk, and saw a derrick attached to the mast, two blocks, and a wooden windlass—the tackle used in hoisting the pony. Part of the broken rope was hanging from the derrick and part was in the hold. The rope was greatly worn, witness saw on examining it. (Rope produced) The combined weight of the horse-box and pony might be half a ton. In its present condition witness was of opinion that the rope was unable to bear that weight. Word of the accident had been sent to Captain Trefusis, and witness waited till his arrival about two hours later. Captain Trefusis then gave orders that the pony was to be sent down to Mr. Kennedy's stables for burial. During this time the cargo-boat had grounded, and witness had to engage some Army Service Corps boatmen to drag her off. He then hired a launch and had the cargo-boat towed to Causeway Bay. The longer portion of the rope was used to tow the boat off, and it broke twice during the operation. The expenses of Captain Trefusis in the matter were \$10.40—\$5 for burying the pony, \$3 for the launch, and \$2.40 divided amongst the twelve coolies who pulled the cargo-boat off.

Cross-examined by Mr. Pontifex—Witness did not give any personal orders when the junk was engaged, and could not therefore say what orders were given. He saw the horse-box taken on board the cargo boat, but did not see the pony until after it was killed. Mr. Kennedy, who was to take charge of the animal, and "who came down expecting to get a live pony," was at the Commissariat Pier before witness.

By the Court—The cargo-boat was towed off because it was likely to prove an obstruction to the Army Service Corps boat. The junk would not have gone ashore had it not waited for Captain Trefusis's arrival. Had the crew not run away they could have kept it from grounding.

A Chinese coxswain in the Commissariat Department was next called. He deposed that he was standing on the Commissariat Pier when the pony was about to be hoisted out of the cargo-boat, and he remarked to the people on board that they should use strong tackle, as the pony was a big one. Witness then described the hoisting process and the accident.

By the Court—Witness was of opinion that the rope was a good one, because the horse-box and pony were hoisted so high.

Robert James Glendinning, assistant to Mr. Kennedy, was also standing on the wharf when the pony was being landed. He told Mr. Hastings that the pony was quiet during the operation and did not jump—at least, so far as witness's recollection went. The animal might have given a jump or two, for anything he could say.

Cross-examined by Mr. Pontifex as to "the jump or two," Glendinning said the pony did not seem to be excited or frightened, and was quiet when being hoisted.

Mr. Hastings—You don't remember him trying to get out of the box, or anything of that sort?

Witness—No.

Mr. Hastings—As far as you could see, he was quiet but rather nervous?

Witness—Yes.

By the Court—Witness did not keep his attention fixed continuously on the horse-box as it was being hoisted; he was talking to some soldiers. The box was on a level with the pier, and was on the point of being swung in when the rope broke.

The case was adjourned for the examination of the witness who had gone to Canton. He is the man deputed by Fackara to engage the junk.

THE COMING CRICKET WEEK.

The *Straits Times* of the 1st inst. says:—"We learn that the cricket team representing the Straits in Hongkong is expected to leave here for the northern port about the 30th or 31st of October next, arriving in Hongkong about the 7th or 8th November. The first cricket match will take place a few days after. Hongkong have also asked the Straits to play them at lawn tennis, and this has been agreed to. It is too early yet to state who are likely to be the 'probables' for the Straits team, but the work of selection will be taken in hand as soon as possible. The team is to represent the Straits as a whole, and the selection of the team will be made in the same manner as on previous occasions, viz.,—The Native States and Penang will furnish the names of thirteen cricketers, together with their various qualifications, to the committee of the Singapore Cricket Club, and the final selection will be made by them. The Straits team will pay their own passages to China." The *Straits Times* adds:—"The committee of the S.C.C. have invited Hongkong and Ceylon to send cricket teams here next Chinese New Year, the arrangements to be on the same lines as in 1891. Answers are expected from Hongkong and Ceylon shortly."

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR AUGUST.

The following cards were handed in.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. I. H. T. McMurtrie	...	0	85	85
Capt. C. C. Renton	...	11	81	92
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins	...	9	91	100
Capt. Blackburne, R.N.	...	16	85	101
Dr. Drew, R.N.	...	15	89	104
Mr. C. H. P. Hay	...	18	92	110

17 entries.

POOL.

Mr. I. H. T. McMurtrie	...	0	83	83
Mr. T. S. Forrest	...	2	89	87
Capt. Blackburne, R.N.	...	16	85	101

13 entries.

HONGKONG.

Police Inspector P. McNab has been promoted from a third-class to a second-class inspectorship. The appointment, which dates from the 1st inst., gives satisfaction to Inspector McNab's many friends in the Police Force.

The *M.S. Melpomene*, which arrived early on the 7th inst. from Shanghai, reports that she passed through a very strong typhoon on the second day out from Shanghai. She suffered considerable damage to ship and rigging, and lost her anchors, life-boats, top-mast, etc. The weather was very dirty all the way down.

The city on the 3rd from morning till night was enveloped in dust storms, and apparently little or nothing was done to lay the dust. Pedestrians had to face the clouds of dust and get through them with smarting eyes; only one water-cart was heard of as being in action. The nuisance was a typical example of our exquisite administration. Fortunately rain fell on the 3rd instant.

The sunken dredger—a phrase that is now quite stereotyped—will soon be but a memory. The *Canton River* is lying in dock waiting for a purchaser, and the piles that marked its resting-place at the bottom of the harbour have now, save for about half-a-dozen which will soon go, been removed. Simultaneously, too, will disappear opportunities for the jokes that have for so long been levelled at the unfortunate vessel.

The *Gazette* contains the official recognition of Herr O. Gumprecht as Imperial German Consul at Hongkong.

The only case of communicable disease, other than plague, reported in the colony during last week was a fatal case of enteric fever.

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge made a tour of inspection through H.M. Naval Yard on the 6th inst. We believe that he was greatly pleased with the victualling stores.

The Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce informed us on the 7th that the Chamber had learnt from the Government that a telegram has been received by the Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements to the effect that the prohibition on Chinese immigration has been removed, but that quarantine is maintained at Singapore.

Before a very good attendance, the replayed match in the Water Polo Shield Competition between the R.W.F. (Right) team and V.R.C. "B" team took place on the 7th inst. at Kowloon. The game was splendidly contested. At half-time the R.W.F. led by three goals to two, and finally won by five goals to three—although they were handicapped during the latter half of the game by the absence of one of their men, who had to retire owing to cramp.

During the 48 hours preceding noon on the 5th inst., there were reported 2 fresh cases of plague and 2 deaths (Chinese), and in the next 24 hours 2 cases (1 Chinese, 1 European) and 4 deaths (Chinese). Since then there have been only 3 cases and 3 deaths (Chinese). The fresh European case is a boy aged 15, by name James Stavers, who is employed in the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. and has been residing in a house on Pedder's Hill. He has been unwell for some time, the doctor being uncertain as to his ailment. On the 6th inst. he was removed to Kennedytown Hospital. Miss Herbst has been discharged cured from the Hospital, and the only patients now there are the boys Mackenzie and Stavers.

Lady Blake and Miss Blake left the colony on the 7th inst. by the *Empress of China* for a holiday at home in Youghal, Ireland, probably returning to Hongkong again in December or January next. They reached Murray Pier at about 11.15 a.m., accompanied by H.E. the Governor, and were met by a number of friends, European and Chinese, who had come to see them off. Both ladies were presented with flowers, among which were two handsome tributes from the Italian Consul-General. After saying good-bye to those assembled, they embarked, amid general good wishes, on the launch *Victoria* with H.E. the Governor, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Lieut. A. Blake, and a few friends, and proceeded on board the *Empress of China*, which left soon after noon.

By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel Teyersham, D.S.O., and the Officers, the Band of the 3rd Madras Light Infantry played on the 5th inst. from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kowloon on the sea front at the bottom of Robinson Road. If possible this band will play every Monday evening. The public, especially the residents of Kowloon, ought to be thankful to the Officers for supplying this long-felt want, and if they could see their way to allow their band to play on this side of the harbour on every alternate Monday during summer it would be a boon to the residents here. It is the peculiarity of a crown colony not to undertake or provide any public amusements which make living in our neighbouring foreign colonies bearable. What a vast amount we have to learn from the Dutch and the French in the pleasures of colonial life. Even at Macao there is a public band, and, of course, at Shanghai the daily performances of the town band afternoon and evening is one of the chief enjoyments in the "Model Settlement." Can anyone picture any day more miserable than a Sunday in Hongkong? It is to be hoped that one of the first duties of the remodelled Sanitary Board that is to be, will be the provision of a town band.

The British transports *Umita* and *Mirani* arrived in the harbour from Calcutta on the 3rd and 4th inst. respectively. The hospital-ship *Carthage* arrived from Shanghai on the 4th inst.

The Austrian cruiser *Zenta* arrived on the 7th inst. from Canton and left again in the afternoon in company with the *Kaiserin Elisabeth* for home. The British hospital-ship *Carthage* left for Calcutta.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The hearing of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank robbery case at Singapore has been postponed to the next assizes.

M. Pichon arrived in Paris from Peking, via New York, on the 27th ult. and was received at the station by M. Delcassé, representing President Loubet.

The Bishop of North China is appealing for a school-church at Weihaiwei, to cost £250 and to seat 100 to 200 people. The S.I.C.K. Committee have voted £25.

Mr. R. G. Watson's name is mentioned at Kuala Lumpur in connection with the Acting-Secretaryship for Chinese Affairs, F.M.S., when Mr. G. T. Hare proceeds on long leave.

The King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of William Thomas Taylor, Esq., C.M.G. (Auditor-General of Ceylon), to be Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements.

Herr B. Krause arrived at Amoy on the 18th ult. from Shanghai by the C.M.S. *Irene*, and assumed charge of the Imperial German Consulate, relieving Dr. O. Franke, who left for home on the following day.

A St. Petersburg telegram of the 2nd ult. says:—The finishing touches are being put to the Russian cruiser, *Perelezi*. When completed, the warship will be sent to the Far East, and will then be the most powerful Russian vessel in Chinese waters.

The following telegram reporting the discovery of a rock directly in the track of shipping between the Yangtze and Simonsiki has been received by the Naval Authorities, and is published in the *Gazette*:—"From *Waterwitch*, Shanghai, 1st August, 1901. Rock found eighteen feet latitude, 32.07 north; longitude, 125.11 east."

A recent issue of the *Weihaiwei Gazette* contains an important announcement which should make a considerable difference to the rapidly increasing community. It is stated that Messrs. Butterfield & Swire have arranged that the steamers *Tungchow* and *Wuchang* shall call at Weihaiwei on their trips to and from Shanghai during the summer months.

Sir Fielding Clarke recently arrived in London from Jamaica, where he has been Chief Justice for the last five years. He has been Attorney-General of Fiji, and remained at Suva till he became Chief Justice as well as Chief Judicial Commissioner for the Western Pacific. In 1888 he came to Hongkong as Puisne Judge, and became Chief Justice of this Colony, from which he was eventually translated to Jamaica.

The farmers in the Foochow neighbourhood, according to the local *Echo*, have had another week of fine weather to gather in their rice crops. The work, however, is barely finished before they begin to cry out for rain for the benefit of the second crops. Every irrigating machine is kept constantly going, but the absorption is so great through the extreme heat of the sun during the day that it is difficult to keep the fields even moist.

The surveying vessel *Rambler* arrived at Colombo on the 21st ult. from Europe for the Straits and China, and sprang a leak there which gave some trouble before it was repaired. The *Rambler*, which has not been docked for years, is twenty-one years old. After her last survey in the West Indies, she was found to be in a bad state, and on the way out to Colombo was temporarily repaired at Malta. She was to leave Colombo on the 25th ult.

The *Sinwénpao* prints the following official telegrams from Peking:—The Emperor has telegraphed instructions to the various high provincial authorities, through whose territories the Court will pass on its return from Hsian to Peking, to be as economical as possible in preparing for the reception of the Court en route; His Majesty being desirous that the money thus saved shall be devoted to relieving the distresses of the sufferers from the recent inundations in various portions of the Empire. —The Grand Secretary, Wang Wen-shao, presented a strong memorial to the Empress Dowager refusing the post of Vice-Comptroller-General of the New Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the moment he was apprised of his appointment; but was unsuccessful, receiving a censure instead for declining the honour.

From a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* it appears that the Colonial Secretary has been notified by the Assistant Secretary to the Bengal Government that owing to an outbreak of plague in Tongkah, south of Victoria Point, in Siamese territory, Tongkah has been declared an infected port and the prescribed regulations will be enforced against arrivals therefrom in Bengal Presidency.

Under date of July 1st, the King has been graciously pleased to appoint Frederick Nutter Cox, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul at San José; Pelham Laird Warren, Esq., C.M.G., to be His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai; Everard Duncan Home Fraser, Esq., C.M.G., to be His Majesty's Consul-General at Hankow; Herbert Francis Brady, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul at Chefoo; Ambrose John Sundius, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul at Nanking; and John Noel Tratman, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul at Chinkiang.

The Changteh (Hunan) correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* wrote on the 16th ult.:—After repeated efforts, extending over a period of about two years, property has been bought in the city. Heretofore the three missions have rented houses at the North, East, and West Gates, but, now that the way is open, the remaining two may enter the city or at least draw nearer their respective Gates. The new location is one of the best in the city, being on the East and West Gate Street—near the latter gate—and within a stone's throw of the Imperial temple. As one of the interested parties is among Changteh's richest men, the transfer of the property caused but little, if any, unfavourable comment.

Messrs. David J. Dunlop and Co., engineers and shipbuilders, Inch Works, Port Glasgow, have launched the s.s. *Zafiro*, the first of two steamers they have on order for the China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited, of Hongkong, through their London agents, Messrs. William Adamson and Co. The following are the principal dimensions and particulars:—Length between perpendiculars, 295 ft.; breadth moulded, 40 ft. 6 in.; depth moulded to spar deck, 25 ft. 1 in. The gross tonnage of the vessel is about 3,000 tons. She carries a deadweight of about 3,000 tons. The accommodation for first-class passengers is located in the midship part of the vessel, and consists of state-rooms, and a large dining saloon extending across the whole width of the ship, capable of seating comfortably at dinner 60 people. The machinery of the vessel consists of one set of triple-expansion engines having cylinders 22½ in., 37 in., and 60 in. in diameter, by 45 in. length of stroke, with two large boilers, for a working pressure of 180 lb. per square inch, with one large auxiliary boiler. The boilers are fitted with Dunlop's system of assisted draught, to enable them to be fired with any inferior qualities of coal sometimes supplied in the China Seas. She is rigged as a two-masted fore and aft schooner.

Speaking at Rouen last month, before his departure from France, M. Doumer, the Governor-General of Indo-China, avowed that the object of France in conquering and annexing was to capture the Chinese market. In itself, Tonkin is worth very little. But it has great commercial value by reason of the easiest trading route to Western China passing through it. Rouen, which formerly had only a tenth of the trade in cotton goods, now possesses, M. Doumer said, 97 per cent. of the trade. Subsequently M. Waddington pointed out all these goods were measured in yards and not metres, and thought that what had been changed in Madagascar could also be done in Indo-China. M. Doumer replied that the latter place was older settled and had got into more fixed grooves from which it was hard to change them. Madagascar being an island, and isolated, it was easier to work modifications. He also alluded to the Yunnan Railway question. It was the plateau of Yunnan, he said, that dominated the Yangtze Valley, and he went on to ask his audience to cast their eyes upon a map. The Asiatic Continent, he said, was barred across by the chain of the Himalayas. There were only two points of penetration—Afghanistan and Yunnan. Did not that sufficiently indicate the interest France had in pushing their commercial activity in that direction?

The *Straits Times* understands that the Chinese of the Federated Malay States are about to present Mr. G. T. Hare, the official who controls Chinese affairs in the Peninsula, with an address, on the occasion of his going on furlough. The address refers in the warmest terms to Mr. Hare's labours in the past for the benefit of the Chinese in Malaya generally. Every wish is expressed for his good health and success at Weihaiwei, where Mr. Hare has placed his services at the disposal of Government during his furlough, and where, it is understood, he will assist in the formation of a permanent system of government.

The *Locomotief* adversely criticises the Dutch Government methods pursued in Java as to pauper Chinese immigrants who arrive there from Singapore. These methods are mostly noticeable at Samarang and Sourabaya. Pauper Chinese come to Java in the hope of making a fortune; but, after a few months of effort to that end, they are usually sent back to Singapore at the expense of Government. Some of the passenger steamship owners make a profit by thus conveying paupers to Singapore. Voices are now raised that the Government should check the flow of paupers at the fountain-head—Singapore—by preventing the "undesirables" from crossing over to Java. The evil is now growing more and more, and every week shipments of paupers reach these two ports. The other day, fifty Chinese had to be sent back to Singapore from Samarang owing to their having no means of livelihood. The return passage costs them nothing because it is borne by Government. The only gainer is the owner of the *Nam Yong*, the steamer which took them away. The point made is that the Government does nothing to stop the outflow of these undesirables from Singapore, or to check the flow into Java by stringent legislation. Chinese coolies at the mines outside Java are now giving much trouble. The tin miners in Banka have been rioting of late. At other mining places, the coolies complain bitterly of hardships and ill-treatment. The Netherlands India Government is doing its best to remedy coolie grievances, and lately took sharp action against the Redjang Lebong Company for failing to come up to the mark in that respect.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 9th August.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 9th August.—Prices continue declining, market being very dull. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	.....	\$8.50 to \$8.55 per.
do. " 2, White	.....	7.90 to 7.95 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	.....	5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown	.....	5.55 to 5.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	.....	8.42 to 8.45 "
do. " 1, White	.....	7.85 to 7.88 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	.....	5.00 to 5.05 "
do. " 2, Brown	.....	5.40 to 5.45 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	.....	12.70 to 12.75 "
Shekloong "	.....	11.40 to 11.45 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 9th August.—The prices are going upward, large demand having come forward. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	.....	\$2.55 to 2.60
" Round, Good quality	.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Long	.....	3.75 to 3.80
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	.....	2.50 to 2.55
" Garden, " No. 1	.....	3.35 to 3.40
" White	.....	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo	.....	4.30 to 4.35

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th August.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 50 bales No. 6 at \$79, 50 bales No. 8 at \$83, 2,100 bales No. 10 at \$84 to \$108, 750 bales No. 12 at \$87.50 to \$90.50, 700 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$103, 1,050 bales No. 20 at \$100 to \$110. *Black Velvets*: 120 pieces Yellow Stag at \$0.21½, 480 pieces Stag at \$0.21½. *Grey Shirtings*: 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Chingway at \$4.80. *Long Bolls*: 125 pieces 8 lbs. Purple Green at \$7.25.

METALS.—Quicksilver: 50 flasks at \$168, 50 flasks at \$168. Leads (new mark): 2,520 piculs at \$7.80 to arrive, 2,520 piculs at \$7.90 to arrive, 2,520 piculs at \$7.25 to arrive. Bar Iron (half oval): 1,000 bundles at \$5.80 to arrive. Rod Iron (small round): 1,000 bundles at \$4.70 to arrive.

COTTON YARN— per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$74.00 to \$111.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....138.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS— per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs. 2.20 to 2.30
8.4 lbs. 2.70 to 3.30
9 to 10 lbs. 3.35 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.35 to 2.60
58 to 60 " 3.00 to 3.90
64 to 66 " 4.00 to 5.50
Fine s. 5.10 to 7.40
Book-folds 4.10 to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.72 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.60 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.85 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.70 to 3.35
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.75 to 3.30
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. 4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs } 1.55 to 5.00

Brocades—Dyed — — —
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50
WOOLENS— per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet..... 6.40 to 10.00
Assorted..... 6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted..... 12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 8.00 to 20.00
Assorted }

Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00

METALS— per picul

Iron—Nail Rod 4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.25 to —
Swedish Bar 6.25 to —
Small Round Rod 4.65 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 5.00 to —
Wire 15/25 7.50 to —
Old Wire Rope..... 2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.15 to —
Australian 7.95 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 39.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 39.50 to —
Composition Nails..... 63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs..... 42.00 to —
Tin..... 69.25 to —

Tin-Plates 7.25 to —
Steel ½ to 1 5.75 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz. — to —

SUNDRIES— per picul

Quicksilver 166.50 to —
Window Glass 6.00 to —
Kerosene Oil..... 2.15 to —

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Kawachi Maru (str.).
FOR LONDON.—Pelex (str.), Coromandel (str.), Malacca (str.), Stentor (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Patroclus (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—Malacca (str.), Eridan (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Konig Albert (str.), Acilia (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Acilia (str.), Alexandria (str.), Sibiria (str.), Andalusia (str.), Arabia (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Braemar (str.), Kaga Maru (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.), Tartar (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Nippon Maru (str.), Doric (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Hudson (str.), Arara (str.), L. Schepp, I. F. Chapman, Manuel Llaguno, Aragonia (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—Strathgyle (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Guthrie (str.), Kasuga Maru (str.).
FOR VLADEVOSTOK.—Taifu (str.).

MANILA.—(From Messrs. W. A. Fitton & Co.'s report of the 5th inst.)—We have to report a quiet share market since issue of our last circular. There is an absolute absence of cash in our market, and we look for little movement in the near future. There is lots of money locked away in this city, but apparently ideas are to hold for the present. **TRANSACTIONS.**—The only one to report is in Maritimas, which changed hands at \$700; the price is cheap. Orientes have been offered at our quotation without finding a buyer, yet this is a first-class stock, and one which has a future. **DEMAND.**—None. **MANILA EXCHANGE.**—This will begin operations during current month, and will cause a radical change in all commercial operations. It will fill a much-felt want. **MEETINGS.**—Orientes, and Maritima hold meetings this month; both concerns have done well, the latter in particular. **DIVIDENDS.**—The Ice Co. and Stevedoring Co. both declared dividends of 10 per cent. on past 6 month's working.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 9th August.—The business of the past week has been very dull and disappointing in almost all our stocks and rates, with a few isolated exceptions, are lower all round.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have ruled very weak, and sales for cash and the end of the month have been effected at considerably lower rates than our quotation, which is given at 390 per cent. premium sellers. Bank of China and Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are quiet at \$340. China Traders continue on offer at \$60. Other stocks under this heading are on offer at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been bought at the reduced rate of \$340, at which more shares are to be had. China Fires are quiet at \$84 and without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$34½ ex dividend, and can still be obtained. Indo-Chinas have sold at \$139 cash and equivalent rates forward, and are still on offer. China-Manilas are neglected at \$62. Douglasses are on offer at \$54. Star Ferries (old) are somewhat firmer and in demand at \$24½. The new shares are unaltered with buyers at \$9. Shell Transports have sold and are obtainable at £2. 12s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been in some request, and sales up to \$146 for the end of the month, and \$148 September, have been effected. The market closes somewhat weak at \$144½ cash. Luzons are neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms have declined to \$5½ sellers. Raubs have sold, and are wanted at \$12½. In other stocks there is nothing doing.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at declining rates to \$295, at which the market closes quiet. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$99 and more shares are obtainable. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$24.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are quiet at \$192 with sellers. West Points are obtainable at \$51. Kowloon Lands are without change at \$30. Hongkong Hotels are on offer at \$130. Orientes are procurable at \$60. Humphreys Estates have been disposed of at \$13, and more are wanted.

COTTON MILLS.—The only change to report under this head is a sale of Hongkong Cottons at \$11.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments continue on offer at \$50. Green Island Cement has sold at \$21½ and are still procurable. Watsons are on offer at \$16. Electrics, old and new, are in request at \$12½ and \$6 respectively. Ropes have been done at \$172½. Ices are quiet at \$181. Tramways are still in request at \$275. Steam Water Boats have sold and are wanted at \$8. Dairy Farms are enquired for at \$3. Tebrau Planting Company have declined to \$1 with sellers. Providents have sold and have sellers at \$9½. Watkins have been placed at \$10½. Tobacco Trusts are unaltered at \$50 sellers.

MEMOS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ordinary half-yearly meeting

of shareholders on the 17th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders on the 19th instant. Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd., in Liquidation, extraordinary general meeting of preference shareholders on the 20th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	390 p. ct. prm. = \$612½, sellers. (L'don, £61. 1's.)
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	15s.
Do. deferred	£1	5. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$38, sellers.
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$94, sales & sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$144½, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$1,500, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 15, sellers
Hongkong	\$100	\$11, sales
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21½, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$6, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$8, sales & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$180, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$181.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$99, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$172½, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$295.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$84.
China Traders	\$25	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sales & sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 175.
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340.
Yangtze	\$60	\$125.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$192, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$13, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	\$50	\$51, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$38, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jebeu	\$5	\$4, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	4 cents.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4½	nominal.
Punjom	\$9	\$5½, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1½.
Raubs	18	\$12½, sales & buys.
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$24, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$60, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£12.
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$54, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$34½, exdiv. sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$130, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£2. 12s. 6d. sales (& sellers)
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$2½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	{ \$9, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$15.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 9th August.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight	1/11½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.44
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.47½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.98
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	6
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	3½
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	4
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	117
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	1½
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1½
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 10.23

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 53.25

BAR SILVER per oz. 26½

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

August—

- 2, Robt. Dickinson, Brit. str., from Penang.
- 2, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., from Chefoo.
- 3, Feiching, British str., from Hoihow.
- 3, Tartar, British str., from Vancouver.
- 3, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 3, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 3, Tingsang, British str. from Moji.
- 3, Umta, British transport, from Calcutta.
- 3, Phra Chom Klao, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Mirani, British transport, from Calcutta.
- 4, Glenturret, British str., from Middlebro.
- 4, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 4, Carthage, British hosp.-sh., from Shanghai.
- 4, Glory, British battleship, from Amoy.
- 4, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 5, Princess Irene, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
- 5, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 5, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Toonan, American str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Nanshan, British str., from Hongay.
- 5, Sibiria, German str., from Hamburg.
- 5, Yangtze, British str., from Glasgow.
- 5, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 5, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
- 5, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Canton.
- 6, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Quarta, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Dr. H. Jurg Kiaer, Norw. str., from Canton.
- 7, Melpomene, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Eastern, British str., from Sydney.
- 7, Brizeux, French ship, from Cardiff.
- 7, Zenta, Austrian cruiser, from Canton.
- 7, Perla, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Chortai, German str., from Swatow.
- 7, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Sado Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 7, Murex, British str., from Balik Papan.

- 8, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 8, Dencaion, British str., from Foochow.
- 8, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Hudson, British str., from Amoy.
- 8, Trym, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.
- 8, Flandria, German str., from Moji.
- 8, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 9, Stuttgart, German str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Idomenus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 9, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
- 9, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
- 9, Ariston, Austrian str., from Moji.
- 9, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 9, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Auping, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
- 9, Annam, Danish str., from Singapore.
- 9, Phoenix, British sloop, from Yokohama.
- 9, Fushun, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.

August— DEPARTURES.

- 3, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F. cisco.
- 3, Bengal, British str., for Europe.
- 3, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
- 3, Mogul, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Massilia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Kwangle, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 3, Tantalus, British str., for Japan.
- 3, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.
- 3, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
- 3, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., for Canton.
- 4, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 4, Taicheong, German str., for Hongay.
- 4, Onsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 4, Mara Kolb, German str., for Chewaichow.
- 4, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
- 4, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Vipere, French gunboat, for Swatow.
- 5, Umta, British transport, for Taku.
- 5, Zenta, Austrian cruiser, for Canton.
- 5, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
- 5, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 6, Princess Irene, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
- 6, China, American str., for San Francisco.
- 6, Tacoma, American str., for Tacoma.
- 6, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
- 6, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Feiching, British str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Empress of China, Brit. str., for V'conver.
- 7, Kaiserin Elisabeth, Austrian cruiser, for Singapore and Home.
- 7, Zenta, Aust. cr., for Singapore & Home.
- 7, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
- 7, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 7, Toonan, American str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Hipsang, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 7, Hailong, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 7, Sibiria, German str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Carthage, British hosp.-sh., for Calcutta.
- 8, Germania, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
- 8, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Robt. Dickinson, British str., for Penang.
- 8, Knight Companion, Brit. str., for Portland.
- 8, Whampoa, British str., for Foochow.
- 8, Yangtze, British str., for Seattle.
- 8, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
- 8, Flintshire, British str., for San Francisco.
- 9, Sado Maru, Japanese str., for London.
- 9, Ailsa Craig, German str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 9, Dencaion, British str., for London.
- 9, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Swatow.
- 9, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Quarta, German str., for Chinkiang.
- 9, Tetartos, German str., for Samarang.
- 9, Nanshan, British str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 9, P. C. Klao, German str., for Manila.
- 9, Stuttgart, German str., for Europe.
- 9, Glenturret, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mrs. Raines, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson and child, Col. Newman, Messrs. Emery, Sanderson, Peterson and Davis.

Per *Princess Irene*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Mr. Ed. Wichmann; from Genoa, Messrs. Br. Marquardt and Atkinson; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis; from Singapore, Messrs. Wieting, Oehlenschlaeger, Wilding, and Tietz; from Europe, for Shanghai, Prince Miraki, Mr. and Mrs. Mustrati, Mr. and Mrs. Abonaf, Miss Samuel, Misses E. and M. Gabel, Miss Emma Land, Messrs. M. Haas, E. Michelsen, R. McWilliam, F. Hinzemann, F. Reincke, C. Henzler, A. D. A. Smith, M. Raphael, and C. Bozard; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Okilmsan, Mrs. Oimamasan, Mrs. Tourn, Mrs. Maschunanto, Mrs. Machanaga, Mrs. Oyuki, Miss F. Levy, and Mr. Morri; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Müller, Mrs. Kumamoto, and Mrs. Hoongawa; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. May, Messrs. E. Trudel, Stempel, E. Sevastopulo, E. E. Easton, and F. Christensen.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mrs. Howard, Messrs. H. Maloney and J. Peterson.

Per *Melpomene*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Joseperinger, Pollock and Chico.

Per *Eastern*, from Sydney, &c., Mrs. Rennick, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. A. Van Vliasinger, Mr. and Mrs. da Silva, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lynch, Capt. E. P. Hayward, Lieut. S. C. Babcock, Messrs. J. E. Townsend, Euler, J. H. Cherry, H. M. de Castro, Clark, A. Ross, Mitchell, E. L. Albin, A. Cameron, L. W. Bates, A. Opisso, T. de Teaza, F. P. Myers, F. Perez, D. E. Mellis, and Masters Borges (2).

Per *Sado Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Messrs. E. R. Hallifax, M. T. Arratoon, B. Kashiwabara, M. Otsu, and Y. Ishiura; for Singapore, H. E. (Minister of Siam) and Mrs. Ronachet and three children, Messrs. S. A. Gainaford, Y. Yamamoto, and Nourom; for Colomba, Messrs. C. H. Meares and Y. S. Schwabe; for Marseilles, Messrs. K. Yamada, S. Umekawa, Y. Kamisaka, and M. Miyakozawa; for London, Comdr. K. Nomaguchi, Messrs. Samuel Paxton, F. T. Buchanan, Moore, Jones, Magel, Morrison, McConechy, and Z. Toyosaki; for Antwerp, Messrs. H. Bloen, T. Penenger, and P. Ranshnyan.

Per *Trym*, from Haiphong, Mr. Marian.

DEPARTED.

Per *Tosa Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Messrs. S. Ghitall, M. Fujisa, M. Oka, and K. Ito.

Per *Massilia*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Capt. W. M. Issel, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, Col. Sergt. Maltas, Messrs. J. Younger, G. C. Hodden, S. G. Vietto, L. Schinz, A. Blas, and H. S. Meggit; from Colombo, Lieut. Hulke, Messrs. G. K. Mitchell and I. Tuxford; from London, Lieut. Farmer.

Per *Princess Irene*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. W. T. Andrews; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. T. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Th. Kriele, and Mr. R. H. Newborn.

Per *China*, for Nagasaki, Mrs. Goldring, Messrs. Dorabjee Nowrojee, J. Pertonger, and S. B. Bhabh; for Yokohama, Mr. C. C. Barlow; for San Francisco, Mrs. J. C. Rains, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Thompson, Miss Dorothy Thompson, Miss H. Groves, Messrs. D. L. Davis, L. G. Young, and W. S. Wenyon; for Seattle, Mr. G. H. Holden; for Boston, Mr. Jasper Whiting.

Per *Empress of China*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. I. A. Levy, Messrs. W. E. Vaughan, K. Murakiu, J. Ishydia, and L. W. Bates; for Nagasaki, Messrs. N. Newman and E. L. Albin; for Kobe, Messrs. D. E. Mellis, S. Taino and H. Kato; for Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs. Prynn, Lieut. and Mrs. Bagnall-Wild, Messrs. D. Lang, B. Talalando, and T. Gil; for Seattle, Mr. P. F. Myers; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Godchaux, Capt. E. P. Howard, Lieut. C. S. Babcock, Messrs. Filemon Perez and E. W. Sandison; for Victoria, Mr. G. M. Leishmann; for Banff, Capt. G. T. Blaxland; for New York, Messrs. G. F. Norton, Louis Wood, J. K. Stowell and Antonio Opisso; for London, Lady Blake, Miss Blake, Mrs. Alex. Apcar, Miss Apcar, Mrs. W. Powell and son, Lieut. M. R. Best, Lieut. F. B. A. Lawrie, and Mr. G. Ost; from Yokohama, for London, Mr. and Mrs. Pascoe-Stuart and child, and Misses Miller (2).

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